## **HALESOWEN**

# 

Thursday, March 6, 2014

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## Manhunt

Police appealing for help to find robber



## People's Lord

Tributes to ex-MP who kept his roots



## Mum's treat

Win your mother a fabulous hair style Page 15



## **Promise** to protect frontline services

CUTS of more than £20 million over the coming year have been approved by Sandwell Council, with the authority's finance chief pledging to protect front line services.

line services.

Councillor Steve Eling also said there would be continued investment in the borough as a council tax freeze was also agreed on Monday night.

The finance shipt could.

Monday night.

The finance chief said:
"We are setting this budget
against a background of
what are probably the worst
cuts in living memory.

## **Desperate**

"We've already had, since 2010/11, £70m worth of cuts. In the coming year we will have £22.2m of cuts, the year after Government have confirmed another £28m of cuts, taking us up to £120m.
"Things are pretty des.

"Things are pretty desperate, and we know that this has created a crisis level for services in many local authorities around the

local authorities around the country."

Councillor Eling be-moaned what he called 'a very definite stench of po-litical bias' in allocation of funds to Tory-run councils.

He added: "Nevertheless

we have come up with a medium term financial statement that plans out how we will achieve services to be will achieve savings to bal-ance that budget over the next three years."

## Last of the century men

THE final member of West Bromwich Albion's 'team of the century' has died aged 89. Right-back Stan Rickaby made 205 appearances for the club, scoring twice, during five years at The Hawthorns in the 1950s. The England international got a 1954 FA Cup-winners' medal after playing in every round before missing the final due to injury. He was the last of Albion's 1953-54 'team of the century', halted by rivals Wolves from claiming the 20th century's first League and FA Cup double.

# GIRL'S FAM ANT ANSWERS

A YEAR after the brutal killing of Halesowen schoolgirl Christina Edkins her family say they are still waiting for answers over her death.

The 16-year-old, who wanted to become a was fatally stabbed in a random knife attack while on a bus in Birmingham heading for Leasowes High School to take a mock exam. Her killer Phillip Simelane pleaded guilty to manslaughter and was detained least the state of th

indefinitely under the men-

indefinitely under the mental act after a court heard he was paranoid schizophrenic. His sentencing did nothing to ease the hearthreak of Christina's parents Jason and Kathleen, her wider family and school friends. Ahead of a memorial service at Birmingham Cathedral on the anniversary of her death tomorrow, Christina's great uncle Chris Melia has spoken for the first time since 23-year-old Simelane, from Walsall, was sentenced in October.

"They (Kathleen and

sentenced in October.

"They (Kathleen and Jason) are dealing with a new reality The reality is, instead of their daughter, they have got a gravestone," he said.

The family have demanded answers to why Simelane was freed from prison unsupervised three months before the attack. A review is into his case

months before the attack.

A review is into his case
led by the NHS Commissioning Support Unit is due
to be published next month.

Mr Melia said: "Why was
he at large in the community with no element of supervision, particularly given
he was homeless? No answer has been forthcoming
so far."

so far."

He hoped lessons would He hoped lessons would be learned from the tragedy. "Hopefully there will be an answer at some point and the relevant authorities will be able to learn from this tragedy and prevent a

## **Alex Ross**

similar reoccurance — that is the family's wish," said Mr Melia. "This was not an MI Melia. "This was not an isolated case and it is quite clear something needs to be done along with some level of accountability in organisations which look after the individuals."

Birmingham and Soli-hull Mental Heath Trust, which assessed Simelane in prison before his release, said lessons had already been learned. The trust said it had improved its referral processes and assessment arrangements between processes and assessment arrangements between prison and health care pro-viders. It also said it was improving the recording of information on its patient data system.

Meanwhile, a petition calling for immediate prison sentences to be given to peo-ple caught carrying knives is being launched by Hale-sowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris to mark the anniversary of Christina's death.

Mr Morris has already Mr Morris has already met with Justice Secretary Minister Chris Grayling and he is working alongside Christina's family. He said: "We owe it to Christina's memory—and to all of the other innocent victims of knife crime—to do what we can to take these lethal weapons off the streets." weapons off the streets.

## NHS staff pledge to be at their best



Jackie Lynton (left) with manager David Higgs, matron Sharon Reynolds and Linda Pascall

IT is the little things that count – hospital staff have made pledges to make people's time in hospital a little bit easier.

bit easier.

The pledges were made by staff at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust to coincide with NHS Change Day which took place on Monday.

They ranged from deputy chief nurse Linda Pascall's personal pledge to feed at least one patient each month who needs help eating and to shake the hand of every one of the trust's ward every one of the trust's ward service officers

### Tree

The trust has also created so-called pledge tree, sited in the main reception at Rowley Regis Hospital. This is a tree where staff can write their pledges on paper leaves and attach them to the tree, so it blossoms with pledges by next winter.

pledges by next winter.
Jackie Lynton, head of
transformation at the NHS
Horizons Group NHS Improving Quality, has visited
Sandwell General Hospital
to meet staff and hear about
the pledges they had already
made.

Deputy chief purse Linda

made.

Deputy chief nurse Linda
was the face of the trust's
campaign to get as many
staff as possible to make a
pledge. She said: "I am delighted to take on the role of lighted to take on the role of encouraging my colleagues to make their pledges in order to improve lives. I've made several, including pledging to spend time every month feeding a patient who needs help to eat, and to shake the hand of every one of our ward service of one of our ward service of ficers - our unsung heroes!'

THE

## **Protest** as cuts made to budget

PROTESTERS gathered outside Dudley Council House as a cost-cutting budget which will see youth services slashed, parking charges rise and street lights switched off after midnight was given the goahead

ahead.
Around 30 members
of the Dudley Coalition
Against the Cuts campaign
group waved placards on
the steps of the building and
urged the council to protect
services for 'vulnerable' residents.

## **Debate**

During a three-hour de-bate in the council chamber, the budget proposals for £34 million of cuts over three years, and a possible further £23m slashed from budgets by 2017 were passed with

\$23m slashed from budgets by 2017, were passed with 42 councillors voting in favour and 25 against. A council tax freeze for 2014/15 was also approved.

Jerry Langford, spokesman for Dudley Coalition Against the Cuts, said he was concerned about the impact on services, particularly those for young people, the elderly and those with disabilities.

Finance boss Councillor Pete Lowe said the council faced 'massive financial challenges' but the authority 'tried as far as possible

ity 'tried as far as possible to protect our services from those who need us the most.

## **Man in court** over attack

A CAR salesman has been charged after a mother and daughter were left with se-vere head injuries in a bot-tle attack at a Halesowen nightclub.

nightclub.
Ashley Barton, 26, of Barneswood Close, Halesowen, is charged with wounding with intent after Nicole Hill and her mother Lorraine were injured at Benjhamin's nightclub. He appeared at Dudley Magistrates' Court yesterday. The case was adjourned to Wolverhampton Crown Court for a hearing on May 28.

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## Fourth raid may be the last straw

goods to the poor is facing closure after burglars struck for a fourth time in just over a month.

Raiders ripped off felt and tore wood from the roof to enter the Christians in Action Genesis Project building in Dudley on Friday night

Tools, ornaments and even food donated for a foodbank were taken in the latest burglary at the chari-ty's base on the Thornleigh Trading

It is the fourth time the charity has been hit in just over a month with a lawn mower, bikes and other goods stolen in the previous raids.

## Finished

Founder Steve Tracey on Monday said that unless someone came forward to help with security the charity was '100 per cent finished'. how we can carry on, he said.

"This time they have actually come through the roof. They have torn off the felt and removed wood to get into the building.

"It is heartbreaking. They have taken tools such as a succession."

taken tools, such as saws, spanners and hammers. They even stooped to taking food out of the foodbank, which is to help people who have hit

sure. Unless a generous business-man or organisation can come along and help us with security I don't see

and help us with security 1 don't see how we can carry on.

"No firm decision on the future has yet been taken but if something does not happen then we are 100 per cent finished."

Mr Tracey said volunteers had ar-rived at the base on Saturday morning to find a scene of destruction

## **Opinions** of 2,500 given on the cuts

AROUND 2,500 residents had their say on which ser-vices they value the most in a budget consultation.

Over recent months fi-nance chiefs in Dudley have been tackling the issue of setting a budget with sig-nificantly reduced national funding and held the three month consultation to give local people their chance to contribute.

### Online

And the consultation, which was predominantly carried out online, attracted 2,488 responses.

The full report of the results went before a meeting of the council's cabinet last month.

The consultation asked people to let the council

people to let the council know which services they most value with refuse col-lection and recycling, litter and street cleansing, ser-

lection and recycling, litter and street cleansing, ser-vices for older people and child protection among those cited as the most im-portant. Council bosses said they were delighted with the huge response which was boosted by the creation of an e-bulletin which sent directly to residents subdirectly to residents sub-scribed to the free service.

## **Most pupils** get top choice

THOUSANDS of parents

THOUSANDS of parents were this week celebrating that their children had gained a place in their first choice secondary school.

In Dudley 88 per cent of pupils were placed in their top choice school with 96.9 per cent of families awarded one of their top three. Nationally last year just over 86 per cent were allocated their first choice school with just over 95 per cent getting one of their top three.

The most popular schools

one of their top three.

The most popular schools in Dudley were Bishop Milner, Earls High School in Halesowen, Ellowes Hall Sports College and Summer-bill School is Will School is Will School is Will School is Will School hill School in Kingswinford.

## Dog days at NEC

TERRIFIC terriers, brilliant boxers and super spaniels are all in town ready to battle it out to become top dog at Crufts 2014.

More than 27,000 dogs will arrive in Birmingham today for the start of the four-day canine cavalcade at the NEC.

# Life ban for a player who broke ref's nose

AN AMATEUR footballer who broke a referee's nose after he had sent him off has es-

caped an immediate jail term.
Shane Davies, aged 27, attacked referee Alan Kite when he showed him the red card for hurling abuse after the

official turned down a penalty appeal.

Davies had admitted assaulting Mr Kite at an earlier hearing. Sentencing had been adjourned at Wolverhampton
Crown Court for psychiatric

## Crown Court for psychiatric reports. His solicitor, Mr Jas Mann, acknowledged his client's behaviour on March 31 last year was 'thoroughly reprehensible'. Davies, of Hillside Road, Dudley, was given a 12 month prison sentence supended for two years. An FA spokesman said Davies, who was already serving a ban for assaulting a rival player in a previous game, was now banned from football for life. Mr Geoffrey Dann, pros-Officers in support of Islam centre

PLANS to open an Islamic education centre at the site of an empty Stourbridge pub have been recommended for approval.

Councillors will make the

Councillors will make the final decision on the scheme proposed for the Old Bell pub in Lye on Monday
A charitable trust known as the Islamic Community and Education Centre wants to transform the building, which was the scheme of the council of t which would hostclasses teaching the Qur'an and work with nearby schools.

work with nearby schools.
Rashid Aziz has submitted the proposals to the change on behalf of the Islamic Community and Education Centre organisation. The application is for a change for use from a pub to community centre. community centre.

community centre.
The council has received
31 letters of support for the
redevelopment as well as
a petition containing 372
signatures in favour of the
scheme, along with a supporting letter from Chapel
Street Medical Centre.
Planning effects at Dud.

Street Medical Centre.
Planning officers at Dudley Council have backed the project saying the change of use was 'acceptable'.
Mr Aziz says they want to raise awareness of cultural diversity with schools.

## Steve weighs up gym success



Councillor Paul Moore with Steve Cartledge and gym instructor Dan Simpson

THE very first customer at a new leisure centre in the Black Country has managed to lose three stone within the first year of it being open

Steve Cartledge has been using Portway Steve Cartueige has been using rorway Lifestyle Centre in Oldbury between eight and ten times a week since it opened and has gone from weighing 15 stone, and two pounds to 11 stone 11 lbs.

The 50-year-old from Carnegie Road, Rowley Regis, was welcomed as Portway

Lifestyle Centre's first customer by Coun-cillor Steve Eling on September 23 last year on the first day of his new fitness regime. Steve Cartledge said: "I ve been using the gym on and off for years and then slipped a disc last Christmas which meant I had to take six months off working out.
"I decided to join the new centre when it

"I decided to join the new centre when it opened to help me shift the extra weight I'd put on.I get a buzz from my workout and am always buzzing when I get to work."



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football for life.

Mr Geoffrey Dann, prosecuting, said the incident happened at a match at King George V Park, Stourbridge, when Mr Kite turned down a second penalty appeal.

Father-of-three Davies who was playing for Malt

Father-of-three Davies, who was playing for Malt Shovel Athletic against Ocker Hill in the Dudley and Cradley Heath Football League match, was sent off by Mr Kite for using foul language. He then struck Mr Kite causing a broken nose.

ose. Mr Jas Mann, defending, said: "He has been extremely candid in the report, which acknowledges that this young man has underlying problems.

"People who play sport and watch sport are not end watch sport are not end."

and watch sport are not en-titled to behave in this way."

titled to behave in this way."
Judge Helen Hughes
handed him a suspended
sentence and told him to
complete an anger management programme. He
was told to pay £500 compensation to Mr Kite, £535
costs and a £100 victim sur-

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## **NEWS**

## **Doctor's** warning on boozy new craze

SANDWELL children's watchdog has issued a warning about the dangers of a drink-or-dare craze sweeping the internet.

sweeping the internet.
Dr Jenny Harding, independent chair of Sandwell
Safeguarding Children
Board, is urging parents and
carers to speak to youngsters about Neknominate.

### Concoctions

The so-called game involves someone posting footage online of themselves downing a large amount of alcohol. They then challenge two or more friends to outdo

two or more friends to outdo them and those that refuse can face ridicule on social media sites.

As the craze has spread people have started drink-ing larger amounts of al-coholic concoctions, often mixed with stomach-churn-ing special ingredients.

Dr Harding said: "We are contacting schools and our other partners like the NHS to ask them to help raise awareness of this issue.
"Drinking lots of alcohol

"Drinking lots of alcohol quickly can be dangerous and have serious conse-

quences.
"The clips rarely show the after-effects such as vomit-ing or passing out or other risky situations they may find themselves in."

## **Lenny looks** back to 70s

LENNY Henry has written a one-off drama for the BBC based on his teenage years. The Dudley-born comic said he was excited about bringing the fiction-based-on-fact story to the screen.

Danny And The Human Zoo, likely to be screened next year, tells the story a young entertainer growing up in a Jamaican family in 1970s Dudley.

up in a Jamaican ramily in 1970s Dudley.

Henry, who got his big break doing impressions on TV talent show New Faces, last month picked up a best actor prize for his dramatic role in stage play Fences. In October he was awarded the Freedom of Dudley borough.

## Car left on M5

A LANE of the M5 had to be closed to traffic while an be closed to traffic while an abandoned car was removed from the side of the carriageway next to the central reservation. Officials sealed off the third lane of the southbound carriageway near Frankley Services at around 7pm on Sunday.

## Father dies months after illness payout

RETIRED company director died from asbestos-related cancer just over a year after re-ceiving almost £200,000 in compensation paid on behalf of his former employer.

Martin Rudge was awarded the £192,000 settlement after being diagnosed with mesothelioma following exposure to asbestos while working as an apprentice carpenter at Halesowen Joinery Ltd.

But this month Mr Rudge died aged 62 at his home in Belbroughton Road in Halesowen – just 15 months after receiving the compensation.

At an inquest at Smethwick Coroners' Court, Black Country Coroner Robin Balmain concluded that Mr Rudge died from an industrial disease.

### X-ray

His son Glen, who lives in Birmingham, told the hearing that his father was diagnosed with the cancer in December in 2012

after being given an X-ray for a chest in-

He said: "When he left school he joined Halesowen Joinery and used to work on the benches making fire doors – the sheets of asbestos were bought in and sawn next to him. He was there for five to six years."

Mr Rudge, who was divorced and had two children, worked at Halesowen Joinery from 1966 to 1974. The company no longer exists. He went on to run a window com-pany with his other son, Gavin.

But after suffering a chest infection and

shortage of breath, he went to the doctors and was later diagnosed with mesothelioma, the inquest heard.

Using solicitors Irwin Mitchell, he won a legal battle for compensation and aimed to use the cash to pay for treatment and cover a loss of earnings after he was forced to reduce his working hours at his window to reduce his working hours at his window fitting business.

At the time he said: "Nothing can turn back the clock but at least now I can now concentrate on spending as much time as possible with my sons."

Street is

by blaze

in garage

AN INVESTIGATION is being held after a series of explosions rocked a street as a house in Cradley was en-

a house in Oraticy was engulfed by a severe fire.
Firefighters were called to Shelton Lane at 3.30am on Friday and found flames

emerging from the garage. They were forced to rip off the garage door to get to the

The fire had spread from the garage to a bedroom di-rectly above, setting fire to floorboards. The rest of the house was filled with thick

The family inside, a couple with three children, had already escaped when fire crews arrived.

They had been alerted to

Fire crews used two hose reels and breathing equipment to extinguish the severe blaze. No-one was injured in the fire.

Police were called and in-

vestigations are under way to find the cause of the fire.

Watch Commander Tom Bell, from Cradley Fire Sta-tion, said: "None of the fam-ily were injured but due to the severity of the fire they were very lucky."

The garage was left as a blackened shell.

the fire by neighbour.

rocked

## **Bulk collection**

prices are frozen

DUDLEY Council has confirmed that it has frozen the cost of its bulky waste collection service for the next financial year.

The council provides collections for large items that residents cannot take to the household waste reveling centre themselves. cycling centre themselves. Prices remain £15 for small collections, £25 for medium collections, \$25 for medium collections and \$40 for large. White goods collec-tions cost £8.70 for smaller items such as microwaves or £17.60 for larger items such as a fridge or freezer. Call 0300 555 2345.

## Bless this 70s telly nostalgia

FANS of television from yesteryear rolled back the decades at a special screen-ing attended by stars of the small screen

Ing attended by starts of the small screen.

Sally Geeson and Robin Stewart, from 1970s ITV sitcom Bless This House, met fans at the Talbot Hotel, Stourbridge, on Sat-

Hotel, Stourbridge, on Sat-urday.

Clips from the comedy, which also starred Sid James, were shown and the two actors talked about their roles. The event was organised by Dudley-based TV nostalgia group Kaleidoscope.

## Glad she didn't stay in her onesie

DANCE teacher 22-year-old Shelley-Marie Sumner from Bentley is Miss Black Country 2014. She beat 20 other young women to win the title at a glitzy event at the Arena Theatre in Wolthe Arena Theatre in Wol-verhampton but said she was shocked: "I heard third and then second called out, and I thought 'oh well, I might as well have stayed in my onesie'. But then I heard my name."

## **Engineers take** continental trip

ENGINEERING apprentices will be heading to Germany. BCTG in Oldbury is taking apprentices on a two-week work experience programme to businesses in Leipzig.

Another 32 young engineers based at Doosan Babcock Ltd in Tipton will work at Doosan Babcock Energy plants in Germany and Poland this month.

## **Going bananas**

DUDLEY museums, Broadfield House Glass Museum, Dudley Museum and Red House Glass Cone are running free banana trails. Children completing the trail get a treat. The the trail get a treat. trails run until Sunday

# Roofer defends his work before a judge and jury

A ROOFER has defended a 30-year guarantee for a new roof at a couple's home, despite it leaking twice within two years.

Dean Powers, aged 46, is charged alongside his brother Jason Charles, 42, of failing to carry out the expected standard of work at Michael Rimmer's home in Halesowen. They are also jointly accused of participating in a fraudu-lent business, PRS Roofing.

Dean Powers' son Jack, 21, of Cherry Tree Walk, Tamworth, has been found not

worth, has been found not guilty of the charge by a jury following direction from Record John Potter.

The jury at Wolverhampt on Crown Court had heard how Mr Rimmer paid out £2,800 for the new fibre glass roof in October 2010 but by September it had suffered two leaks.

Warnod

Warnod

### Warned

On the fifth day of the trial on Tuesday, Dean Powers, of Rainscar, Wilne-cote, Tamworth, defended himself. He claimed to have warned Mr Rimmer over the 'appalling' state of his neighbour's adjourning roof, saying leaking could reoccur if the neighbour did not take

action.

Asked about the roof's 30-year guarantee, he said: "I have done four other properties in the road and not had ties in the road and not had a problem. This problem comes from the adjourning roof of the property. If there are any problems we will go and rectify it. We went the first time, a second time we went round and we weren't allowed to rectify it."

The court heard that after the second leak Mr Rimmer did not answer the door to the roofers after being told police wanted to question

Recorder Potter withdrey four charges of engaging in a commercial practice which was a misleading action and one charge of engaging in a commercial practice which contravened the require-ments of professional diligence from Dean Powers Jason Charles and Jack

Powers.

Mr Potter said the charges, which related to work on two chimneys in 2011 at the Blackberry Lane home of Maurice and Janet Rudge in Halesowen had time-barred due to the length of time between the complaint and the inspection being carried out.

Charles, however, is still charged with five counts of fraud in relation to work at that couple's home. The pair deny all charges.

## Man rescued from fire

A MAN had to be led to safety by firefighters after an electrical fire caused thick smoke to fill his flat.

Crews were called to Holloway Court, in Halesowen, at around 2pm on Sunday. The 63-year-old man was unhurt but disorientated after breathing in the smoke.

He was rescued from the building by firefighters and given oxygen until paramedics arrived, then taken to hospital for checks.



The burned out garage and damaged house in Shelton Lane, Cradley







THIS is not only the quote of the week but possibly of the century. The stand-in prime minister of Ukraine, Arseniy Yatsenyuk tells his people: "We are on the brink of a disaster and this is the government of political suiciders! So welcome to hell." Now, that's what I call an election promise.

### 00000000

MEN and women are not always interested in the same things. Most football fans are male. A friend who attended an evening with "Psychic Sally" Morgan reports only a handful of blokes in a theatre packed with women. If the sexes have different leisure interests, why should women have the same career interests as men, especially when the career in question is notoriously laddish and aggresthe career in question is notionously ladousls and aggressive? There are very few female stand-up comedians, yet the BBC has announced an end to all-male comedy panel shows. Dara O Briain, host of Mock the Week (BBC2) warns that female panellists may come to be regarded as "the token woman." Just like politics.

A FRIEND reports that not all visitors are impressed with Birmingham's new £200 million library. As he climbed the stark staircase with its white walls and strip lighting, he heard one of a group of lads complain: "This is boring, innit? It's like being back in prison."

0000000

WHAT makes a middle-aged father of four children truly happy? Time with the kids? A relaxing stroll with his wife? Seeing the new baby take its first step? Nah. Piers Morgan declared in a column two weeks ago: "I'm never happier than when bombing down Sunset Boulevard from my Beverly Hills home in my Aston Martin and Prada shades." This from a man of 48. Morgan plumbs extraordinary depths of shallowness. His dispatches from LA are an engles list of celebrities he's met sweaky restau. clinary deptins of shallowness. His dispatches from LA are an endless list of celebrities he's met, swanky restaurants he's dined in and beautiful women he has allegedly charmed. Now it's falling apart. His CNN chat show is to be axed. For a man who adores being among the rich and famous, the future looks dull. I never thought I'd write this but I feel sorry for Piers Morgan.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes** every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

# Court told drug dealer drove like a maniac'

A DRUG dealer with a string of previous convictions "drove like a maniac", including the wrong way around a roundabout, in a bid to escape from police.

Paul Oakes narrowly avoided colliding with two pedestrians as he tried to escape from the officers in Long Lane, Rowley Regis, in November last year.
Recorder Mr Keith by Adam Thompson
Raynor said during sentencing: "You drove like a

burglary, aggravated vehi-cle taking and drug related crimes.
Miss Sharonjit Bhaia, defending, said: "Mr Oakes had already served two-and-a-half months since his

arrest for the dangerous driving matter. He had been

driving matter. He had been electronically monitored for 223 days. Adding that up, it's the equivalent of 12 month sentence."

Oakes, of no fixed address, pleaded guilty to possession of amphetamines with intent to supply, on the basis it was only to his friends. He admitted further charges of possession of amphetamental further charges of possession of amphetamental further charges.

admitted further charges of possession of amphetamines, dangerous driving, driving without insurance and without a licence.

Mr Raynor sentenced him to 12 months in jail suspended for 18 months. He was ordered to take part in the thinking skills programme and banned from driving for two-and-a-half-years.

tencing: "You drove like a maniac and it is fortunate no-one was injured."
Oakes, aged 48, was al-ready on bail over an inci-dent in April when he tried to flee police, leaving behind electronic scales and a bag containing drugs.
Mr Alexander Barnfield, prosecuting, told Wolver-hampton Crown Court: "The dangerous driving matter was on November

hampton Crown Court:
"The dangerous driving
matter was on November
30. He was stopped by police in Long Lane in Rowley
Regis. He tried to escape Regis. He tried to escape the police by driving onto the central reservation. He has then drove around the roundabout the wrong way and towards on-coming traffic. He came close to two pedestrians."

Oakes was arrested on December 16 and found with five bags of amphetamines. The court was told how Oakes had committed 111 previous offences and

111 previous offences and had 43 convictions including

## Manhunt for armed robber



The robber makes off with the till at Booze Corner

THIS CCTV picture shows a man police are hunting for three separate raids in which he threatened people

which he threatened people with a gun.
The first two raids, at HSBC in Cradley Heath and Lloyds TSB in Bearwood, proved fruitless with the offender, aged in his 40s or 50s, fleeing empty handed. But in the most recent raid, on February 18, the man snatched a till from Booze Corner in Halesowen.
The robber first struck on January 31, when he walked into the HSBC on January 13, when he walked into the HSBC on January 17, the same man is believed to have struck at Lloyds TSB on Bearwood Road, where his attempts were foiled again. foiled again.

foiled again.

Two men entered Booze
Corner on Howley Grange
Road, Halesowen, and demanded money from the till
while brandishing a gun.
One of the men grabbed the
till and ran to a waiting car,
a turquoise Land Rover.
Call police on 101 or
Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

## **Police** warning on garden work con

A WARNING has been issued by police after commen posing as council staff fleeced a pensioner out of hundreds of pounds.

They asked her for payment for gardening work and then stole from her while the unsuspecting

while the unsuspecting victim was distracted into fetching their 'fee', police revealed.

revealed.

The 78-year-old victim, of Cradley Heath, only discovered the 'workmen' were bogus when she visited her housing office in Blackheath and asked about the men who had called at her home earlier in the day.

earlier in the day.
Staff broke the news that the men were not working for Sandwell Council.
Further checks confirmed that not only had the heart-less tricksters conned the pensioner out of £600 but they also stole hundreds more when they sneaked inside the property and stole money from a bedroom.
The men left the scene in a black Land Rover. They both spoke with Black Country accents.
Detectives today appealed

Detectives today appealed Detectives today appealed for anyone with informa-tion about the 'despicable' fraudsters to come forward following the incident in Prince Street. Call Force CID at Har-borne by dialling 101, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

## Trade Prices to the Pub



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## £3m fire station is nearly complete

A NEW £3 million fire station is quickly taking shape in the Black Country with

in the Black Country with the steel frame and roof of the new building completed. The station is being built on the site of former mu-nicipal buildings on the junction of Halesowen Road and Barrs Road, in Cradley Heath.

Officials from West Mid-lands Fire Service have con-firmed that the construction of the station is progressing

### Steel

Construction of the steel frame and roof of the building had been completed with brick and block work already under way.

The fitting of electrics will begin this month.

begin this month.

It was announced last week the new station will be named Haden Cross Com-munity Fire Station.

Officials from the service said building work was scheduled for completion in the early summer ready for the service to move into.

The new station is being constructed following the merger of Halesowen and Cradley Heath fire stations and the axing of one of the two 24-hour crews.

It will replace Halesower station in Hagley Road, and Cradley Heath station, in Maco Street

Cradley Hea Mace Street.

# Spring start on project expand park and ride

WORK on a £3 million extension to a busy railway station's park and ride is set to start within the coming months.

The expansion of Rowley Regis' car park, by an

to make the bulk of their daily commute by rail or tram. These free spaces are calculated to take more than 53,000 journeys off the road

each week, reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 6,200

dioxide emissions by 6,200 tonnes a year."
Councillor Roger Horton said: "The scheme will still be carried out within the time period we originally set. It will take a bit longer than some of the other projects we have as it will be an extensive expansion but it is being well supported by Dudley Council and Sandwell Council, as well as local people.

local people.
"Since October 2012

the morning journey into Birmingham by train has overtaken those by bus. Bus used to be the number two

mode of transport behind the car but now it is train. Park and ride is in demand,

and people are using it to its full extent."

extra 360 to 708 spaces, was due to begin before Christmas but was delayed as engineers sought the necessary approvals.
Sandwell Council's planners approved the sch

transport authority Centro by Adam Grinsell in June last year.

The extra parking space will be constructed on dis-

The extra parking space will be constructed on disused land adjoining the current car park, following thesuccess of the park and ride system at the site.

A spokesman for Centro said: "Construction work on Rowley Regis Park and Ride is due to start in spring this year. We have been working closely with partner organisations to come up with a design that benefits the highest possible number of passengers using the facility and making sure this gets through the necessary approval stages.

through the necessary approval stages.

"The improved facility will provide a further 360 free parking spaces for rail users and help reduce the congestion on our roads which currently costs our region more than £2 billion each year.

each year.
"Park and ride has already proved hugely successful in persuading motorists

## Animal lovers help Kelly recover



Tanya Smith with her foster dog Kelly, who is now on the road to recovery

AN ABANDONED dog has been given a new lease of life after animal-lovers ral-lied round to pay for a major operation to her paw. Staffordshire cross Kelly was found in a lowly in

operation to ner paw.
Staffordshire cross Kelly
was found in a layby in
Sandwell with a partly-severed back paw.
Wild Acre Rescue charity
arranged for the seven-yearold dog o be seen by Manor
Vets, in Graingers Lane,
Halesowen. But vets were
unable to operate straight
away because her blood loss
was so severe she was too
weak for surgery. They had
to dress the wound daily so
it did not become infected.
Kelly was cared for by
Tanya and Howard Smith,
of Cradley Heath. Mrs.
Smith said: "Kelly is a lovely
dog and has a very sweet
temperament. Even when
she was in pain and had to

temperament. Even when she was in pain and had to have her paw redressed, she never snapped once."

An appeal issued by the charity for donations to cover medical bills has raised £1,500.

Donations are still needed via the wildacrerescue.co.uk website.

## School meals in ten pence rise

A PRICE rise for school meals in Dudley has been agreed. The council will in-crease the cost by 10p from April 24.

April 24.

The price charged for a meal in all primary and special schools across the borough is set to rise from £1.90 to £2.

The cost of individually priced food items in primary and secondary schools will also rise.

schools will also rise.

The increase will bring in an estimated £200,000 per annum which the authority says will help it cover costs.

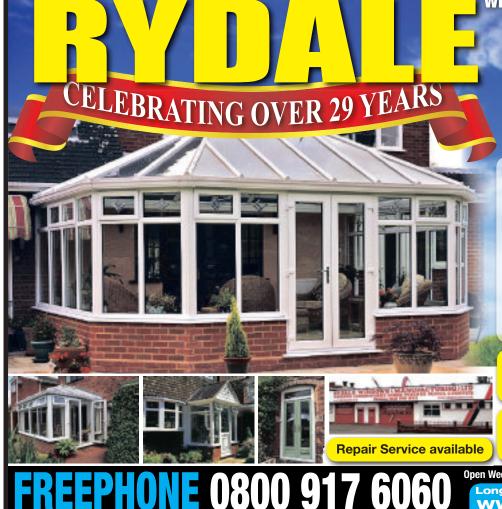
Children's services boss Councillor Tim Crumpton said the amount was in line with other local authorities

## 'Begging bowl Britain' warning

SANDWELL Council will give five food banks oneoff grants totalling £75,000
— including £3,00 for The
James Project in Rowley
Regis — to feed the growing number of Black Country families on the bread
line. The cash-strapped
authority is growing increasingly concerned about
people facing crisis.

Chiefs at the authority,
which needs to save £120
million by 2016, say Government cuts are taking
their toll. The authority's

million by 2016, say Gov-ernment cuts are taking their toll. The authority's finance boss, Councillor Steve Eling, warned those same cuts could soon lead to 'begging bowl Britain'.



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## **NEWS FEATURE**



HOW depressing that Apprentice runner-up Luisa Zissman has had her Ferrari vandalised. And even more depressing that some idiot on Twitter suggested it was a form of 'karma' for having the effrontery to drive such a vehicle.

Are some people just horn

Are some people just born with a chip on the shoulder, or does society just turn them that

way? In In typically robust fashion, Zissman replied: "I hope when you buy one someday because you've worked hard someone does it to you!" But the chances of such peo-

ple ever working hard for any-thing are about as likely as Helen Flanagan becoming president of Mensa.

Mensa.
Still, I surely can't be the only one who is wondering how a baker who did not even win Lord Sugar's prized investment is now in the Ferrari league.
That is a lot of cupcakes.

فمممم

DAYBREAK, the ITV breakfast television service which shares its name with the old TV-am early morning news show from the 1980s, is in line for another revenue. revamp.

the 1980s, is in line for another revamp.
It is now going be renamed, er Good Morning Britain, after another TV-am breakfast show from 30 years ago, and is going to be presented by Susanna Reid, who appears to have been poached from the BBC on the basis that she is good at ball-room dancing.

Talk about back to the 80s. I suppose we should be glad that nobody thought it a good idea to bring back Gyles Brandreth and his garish sweaters, but it does highlight a lack of creativity and original thinking. And if they really do think that 1983 represented some golden era in breakfast broadcasting, there is one crucial ingredient they have overlooked. overlooked.

overlooked.

Let's have Roland Rat doing the paper reviews. Now that would have people tuning in.

NEWCASTLE United manager Alan Pardew is in hot water after going head-to-head with Hull City midfielder David Meyler. His touchline contretemps has landed him with a £100,000 fine. Or a weekend, as Wayne Rooney would call it. Personally, I think he has been a bit hard done by. After all, a spot of head-to-head contact is usually seen as a gesture of afusually seen as a gesture of affection up in horse-fighter land.

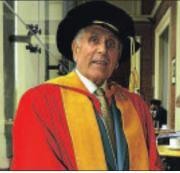
And I'm sure he was really only offering a coaching lesson in ball

## 00000

JUST 10 days ago, glassyeyed Russian president Vladimir
Putin was the smiling host of the
winter Olympic games. The following weekend, he appeared
to be gearing up for a full-scale
invasion of the Crimea.

Didn't somebody once say

Didn't somebody once say that a week was a long time ir politics?





With Annie Kemmies, 79, at Cradley Labour club in 1974 With his Honorary Freeman of the City scroll in 2006



# Lord who never forgot his roots

DANIEL WAINWRIGHT looks back at the life of former MP and peer Lord Bilston who has died at 71

IT is hard to imagine another politician more deserving of the title 'man of the people' than Dennis Turner.

Even when elevated to the House of Lords, he took the town of his birth as his name, Baron Bilston. And when he served as MP for Wolverhampton South East around 300 people took to the streets at the end of his first term of office to campaign for his re-election.

tion.
The crusade succeeded, with the number of votes for Dennis Turner in 1992 almost double those of his Conservative

almost double those of his Conservative rival.

Fast forward 22 years and it would be unthinkable, in the post-expenses scandal 'they're all the same' cynicism of 2014 that any MP would have such a strong following.

But Dennis Turner, honoured last year with a Famous Sons and Daughters of Wolverhampton award, was from a different era, when more working class people were chosen by their communities to represent them in Westminster. He was an extremely well-liked politician, for whom successive Express & Star lobby reporters based in the House of Commons developed a fondness and friendship. friendship.

He was born, raised and educated in Bradley. And he lived there all his life.

He would become a staunch union man who believed strongly in a fair deal for working records.

man who believed strongly in a fair deal for working people.

He was educated at St Martin's C of E School, in Slater Street, then at Stonefield Secondary (later Hall Green Comprehensive, then Bilston High School and now South Wolverhampton and Bilston Academy), in Prosser Street.

He left to work at Thomas Perry steel

The newly-elected MP for Wolverhampton South East seen in 1987

The newly-elected MP for Wolvert roll makers, in Highfields Road, as an office boy making tea and doing chores, then studied office accounting at Bilson College before joining the Betterware kitchen equipment company as a salesman when he was 17.

Going door to door in the 1950s and 1960s, and seeing the poor conditions of slum housing, gave Lord Bilston the interest he would have in politics for the rest of his life and the belief that he could help to make things better.

In 1964 he moved into the Bilston steel industry, beginning as a stocktaker, and later as transport controller.

And two years later, he was first elected to the Wolverhampton Borough Council at the age of 22. He was chosen to be the deputy leader of the council in 1980, a position he held for six years until his decision to stand for Parliament. Lord Bilston also served on the now-defunct West Midlands County Council from 1973 until 1986.

He chaired the Joint Trade Union Action Committee which had fought the long and ultimately doomed battle to stop the closure of Bilston Steeworks. He was at the forefront of the five-year fight to save the works from the axe in

the late 1970s, and was devastated when it closed with the loss of thousands of jobs. "It was traumatic to see the demise of the steel industry," he once recalled. "I don't think I will ever see such a catastrophic effect on the people of this area."

astrophic effect on the people of this area."

So popular was he among his political peers that in 1987, when he first won the Wolverhampton South East seat, even members of the Tory party had contributed to his campaign fund. As a Wolverhampton councillor at the time he was given a China piggy bank by Conservative Paddy Bradley when he resigned his seat to begin his campaign.

He continued to fight hard for his people. In 1993 he gathered 5,000 signatures on two petitions, 2,500 on each, campaigning against plans to impose VAT on fuel and another against threats to strip pensioners of free travel passes.

## Identity

Just a few years ago his time and power was called upon again when Bil-ston itself looked to be bureaucratically torn apart in a review of Parliamentary

boundaries.

The town was set to be represented by four different MPs, something that

The town was set to be represented by four different MPs, something that risked its very identity.

Dennis, along with his brother Bert, a councillor and at the time mayor of Wolverhampton, led the charge. They took a coachload of people to a Boundary Commission hearing in Birmingham to plead their case. And they won.

The stroke he suffered in May 2006 affected the use of his right arm and leg, but he recovered and carried on his duties in the Lords. The following year he was granted Freedom of the City.

But despite his huge political profile he was a family man at heart. He leaves his devoted wife Pat, 67, two grown up children, Brendon and Jenny, and a granddaughter, Bella. Last year, the lold Labour firebrand Dennis Skinner highlighted Dennis Turner as the sort of person that voters just do not see enter politics anymore and sadly, will not again.

## **THROUGH** THE YEARS

1984
FOOTBALL Association chief
Bert Millichip called for urgent
meetings with the Home Secretary following disgraceful scenes
of violence from England fans in
France. Former West Bromwich
Albion chairman Mr Millichip
said he was appalled by the behaviour of the fans which left 15
people needing hospital treatment, two of them seriously ill.

TONY Benn was back in Par-TONY Benn was back in Par-liament less than a year after los-ing his Bristol seat. The former cabinet minister won a by-elec-tion in Chesterfield. But Labour leader Neil Kinnock's joy at re-taining Chesterfield was tem-pered by reports Mr Benn was already set to rock the boat, de-manding are proficies stripping. manding new policies stripping the Queen of her constitutional powers, removing the Prime Minister's right to appoint and remove cabinet ministers, and abolishing the House of Lords.

### 1994

A PETROL station attendant used his mobile phone to dial for freedom after armed raiders locked him in a toilet. Two gun-wielding robbers forced Arshad Hussain into a toilet at the Elf Service Station in Moxley before making off with nearly £2,000. Mr Hussain used his mobile to call police.

A PILOT died at the controls of A PILOT died at the controls of his cargo plane after its engines failed. The four-engined Vickers Viscount plummeted out of the sky in blizzards at Stowe-by-Chartley, between Stafford and Uttoxeter. The pilot had battled to avoid hitting homes.

DETECTIVES excavating the DETECTIVES excavating the house of Gloucester builder Fred West believed they had discovered the corpses of two women who disappeared during the 1970s. One of them was identified as former Wolverhampton schoolgirl Shirley Robinson. A third body was believed to be West's 16-year-old daughter, last seen in 1987. West, aged 52, was charged with three murders. was charged with three murders

## 2004

AN edgy play was causing controversy. Everyman - An Immorality Play, focused on holidaymakers in a Spanish hotel, and featured foul language and female nudity. But the Conservative group leader of Wolverhampton Council, Councillor Mrs Paddy Bradley, was not impressed by the production due at the city's Arena Theatre. "There is no respect left for life or women's bodies in the world any more," she said. any more," she said.

FORMER Walsall schoolbox FOHMEH Walsall schoolooy Steven Knight was waving the flag for the West Midlands at the Oscars but he missed out on one of the famous statuettes when his play Dirty Pretty Things was pipped to the post.

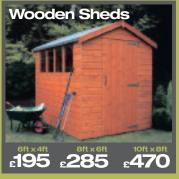


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## Estate parking permits unfair to residents

WITH reference to the proposals for a parking permit system on the Russells pel living on unaffected parts of the state in the locality of Russells Hall Hospital. The proposed permit their homes, however, because we live state will not have to pay to park by their homes, however, because we live state will not have to pay to park by their homes, however, because we live in close proximity to the hospital we repealised.

Hospital staff and visitors have enjoyed this privilege causing some degree of distress to residents for the past hone. The scheme proposed is an illuding Dule bedge then years or more for free. Most authorities do not charge for blue badge holder parking bays, including Duley Council, so why should we as Dudley residents have to pay for a permit bay

E-MAIL

Dudley.chron@ expressandstar.co.uk

## The council **LETTERS** could shop around

DUDLEY councillor Tim OUDLEY councillor Tim Crumpton concedes food prices have increased there-fore we have no choice but to increase prices of school meals — parents are well aware food prices have in-creased

creased.

They feel the pain every time they do a weekly shop but unlike Oliver Twist at

but unlike Oliver Twist at the council they are unable to ask for more. Parents shop around until they find the best price, even if that means visiting a number of different suppliers.

An increase of 10p sounds minuscule until you consider the family with three, four or five children who will face a weekly bill of £30, £40 or £50 for school meals. Some mothers only have that to provide three meals a day for the week, 21 meals not five.

not five.

My message to Councillor Crumpton is try shopping around and sharpen up the purchasing department's negotiation skills. negotiation ski

## to the Editor

Chronicle Editorial.

51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

## Tax dodgers get awav as benefits cut

I THINK it's completely justified for the 27 bishops to crit-There were grounds for reform, of course, but the sc and depths of the current cuts are not justified one bit.

Consider the consequences of these cuts causing untold Consider the consequences of these cuts causing untoid misery and genuine poverty, whilst others are almost free to practise tax avoidance and, in many cases, tax evasion knowing full well the chances of repercussions are remote. These practices amount in total tax non-payments to a far greater figure than the total benefits bill annually. Then we have Government departments, both national and local, where waste is prolific, whilst salaries for Government departments, but national and local where waste is prolific, whilst salaries for Government departments.

ernment managerial posts are at grotesquely high levels in many instances

I would also bring into question MPs' salaries, not to the their expenses and perks.

It's not wide of the mark, I think, to call the scale of

the benefit cuts as bordering 'genocidal', I'm sure many of those affected by the cuts would agree.

N STAMPS

## Long life due to a war diet?

I AM 87 years of age and my husband is 96 and we look through the obituar-ies in case we have missed the passing of someone we knew. What has struck us is how many are living into their 80s, 90s and even 100s. We wondered why this

was.
One common factor is that they had all lived and survived the war years. Those who were in the forces had an adequate healthy diet with plenty of exercise and those who were left at home lived on wartime rations. Cakes and pastries were

very scarce, sweets and chocolates were rationed. People walked a lot more

People walked a lot more with very few cars and buses stopped running at 9pm. So if you went to the pictures or a dance, you walked home.

There were no supermarkets or places selling beefburgers, etc, and people were encouraged to grow their own vegetables.

K LEWIS

Wolverhampton

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## **CLUB NEWS**

## **Birthday** wishes to Doris, 90

## WORDSLEY 'M' TG

THE February meeting was opened by chairman for the day Liz Hubbard who welcomed all attending, in particular three new members.

ticular three new members.
Doris Jackson was presented with a card and a
basket of flowers from the
guild as she turned 90, and
'Happy Birthday' was sung.
Ann Birchell gave details of the Federation St
George's Day event on April
23 at Wollaston Village Hall.
Lord Cobham and Pat Green
are the speakers followed by
a fish and chip lunch and
entertainment plus tea and

a fish and chip lunch and entertainment plus tea and cakes. Cost is £7.

June 18 is the AGM. at Cardiff and a coach is being arranged. The annual lunch at The Mill is arranged for July 28 and a Harvest Lunch on October 1 at Wollaston Village Hall.

A previous speaker Mr

A previous speaker Mr Hook – 'Mother of Pearl' - has invited members to visit his factory in May or

visit his factory in May or June.

Liz reminded members that the Monday meeting for April will be on the 14th not 21st and will be at the Richardson Hall, Lawnswood Road, Wordsley as the Community Centre was not available was not available.

Anne gave out the quiz papers during which time members' fees were col-lected and refreshments

The next meeting is on March 17 which will be the AGM followed by a buffet of cheese and biscuits.

## Pair bridge gap at annual tournament



From left, John Sheppard, Keith Perry and Michael Dainty

SEDGLEY Bridge Club held their annual

SEDGLEY Bridge Club held their annual bridge championship and the winning pair were John Sheppard and Michael Dainty. They are pictured with the Tipton And Coseley trophies, presented to them by Keith Perry.

Sedgley Bridge Club meets every Thurs.

day afternoon and guests and new members are always welcome.

The venue is the Sedgley and District

## SEDGLEY BRIDGE CLUB

Community Centre, Ladies Walk, Sedgley Besides duplicate on Thursday, rubber bridge is played at the centre on a Wednes-day afternoon. Friday afternoon is a learner

and improvers' session.

For more information, ring Stanley on 01902 561908 or Keith on 01902 671728.

CHAIRMAN Sheila Evans welcomed everyone to the first Kingswinford Ladies Social Circle meeting of the

year.
All members were invited to consider where they wished their annual trip and

luncheon to take place.

Speaker Mrs Bernie
Townsend introduced
her talk about the little

known "Catholic Women's League Services Committee", founded by Margaret Fletcher in 1906 and which during two world wars founded huts to provide Mass, spiritual needs, and food to members of the armed sorvices

armed services. In 1965 the last hut closed

but with the sale invested wisely and now provides help to any needy person with connections with the armed forces. This was a most eloquent and interesting talk. Her husband manned the slides.

Chris Groves gave the vote of thanks. Margaret Jones and Shirley won the raffle.







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Sedgley, Dudley Street DY3 1SA 01902 882266

01562 752531

Great Bridge, 69 Great Bridge DY4 7HF

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Bearwood, Bearwood Road B66 4BH

0121 420 3110

Kinghurst, The Parade B37 6BB

0121 7703194

16 Market Way, Bilston WV14 0DR

01902 495544

## **Senior coroner to leave** after decades of service

THE man who has served the Black Country as its coroner for more than 40 years has announced his retirement.

announced his retirement.

Robin Balmain first began investigating deaths in 1972.

But he has announced that he will retire from his current position as senior coroner for the Black Country in September. He said it has been a 'great honour' to serve the area.

Mr Balmain, who is based at Smethwick Council House, first became the assistant deputy coroner for the area then known as Sandwell North, covering West Bromwich, in 1972, working part time while he continued in his role as a solicitor with Lyon Clark. role as a solicitor with Lyon Clark.

role as a solicitor with Lyon Clark.
He later became deputy coroner for that area, before becoming coroner for Sandwell in 2000, after Sandwell North had been merged with Sandwell South, which covered Smethwick.

### Jurisdiction

He then became the first Black Country coroner in 2005, covering Sandwell, Dudley and Walsall. Wolverhampton was added to his remit in January 2012, meaning he has covered one of the largest coronial areas in the UK. He is responsible for ascertaining the cause of any sudden or suspicious deaths. During 2012, the last year for which statistics are available, more than 4,000 deaths were reported to than 4,000 deaths were reported to Mr Balmain, and he carried out 520

In the samain, and he carried out 320 inquests.

Mr Balmain said: "It has been a great honour to serve as the first coroner for the Black Country jurisdiction, "I am grateful for the support of all those I deal with and in particular Councillor Mahboob Hussain of Iar Councillor Manboob fussan of Sandwell Council. I look forward to working with my successor to achieve a smooth handover."
Sandwell Council is in charge of the coroner's office and in conjunction with the Chief Coroner and Black

CHESNEY'S



Black Country Coroner Mr Robin Balmain who is stepping down

Be Inspired

Country partners, will now start the process of appointing a new coroner.

Country partners, will now start the process of appointing a new coroner. Councillor Hussain, deputy leader of Sandwell Council, added: "I should like to add my personal thanks to those of many people for the sensitive and caring service Mr Balmain has provided to the bereaved of all our boroughs.

"He has always gone the extra mile to help the community even when occasionally we have had to call on him

casionally we have had to call on him and his staff out of hours.

"He and his staff have shown real commitment and have made a big difference. We will be taking this opportunity to build on the excellent service Mr Balmain has developed."





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## MEMORY LANE









Survivors take a look at a crater in Bradford Place, Walsall



L21 Zeppelins were used to bomb the Black Country

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# that left its mark on Black Country

Black Country, or as normal as any night was during the dark days of the First World War.
The trams clattered through the streets, folk flocked to the cinemas.
The lights were ablaze as people went shout their business as usual. about their business as usual.

IT WAS just a normal night in the

about their business as usual.
Then the Zeppelins came. Dozens were killed as bomb after bomb pounded down on Tipton, Wednesbury, Bilston and Walsall. Buildings were ripped apart as death rained down from the skies. A devastated husband returned from the pictures to find three generations of his family had perished in the carnage. The Black Country had never seen anything like it.

Amateur historian Derrick Nicholls has spent 18 months researching the devastate.

Amateur historian Derrick Nicholis has spent 18 months researching the devastating raids of 98 years ago, putting together an exhibition at Tipton Library.

Among the artefacts Mr Nicholls, a 71-year-old retired newsagent, has gathered together in calling action defining the production of the produc

ered together, is a police notice advising the public what to do in the event of an air raid.

5 North Street, Dudley,

West Midlands, DY2 7DT

It suggests keeping a bucket of sand or water to hand in the upstairs bedrooms, in order to tackle any small fires that may break out.

by Mark Andrews

"All windows and doors on the lower floor should be closed to prevent the admission of noxious gases," added police commissioner Mr E R Henry.

Destruction came to the Black Country on a foggy, frosty night on January 31, 1916, when a fleet of German Zeppelin airships were making their way to attack

But in the misty conditions and heavy But in the misty conditions and heavy clouds, two of nine aircraft – the L21 and L19 – became lost over the Midlands. Zeppelin L21 was commanded by 45-year-old Kapitanleutnant Max Dietrich. He had thought he was flying over the Irish Sea but had been mistaken by sparsely populated areas of countruside.

areas of countryside.

On his orders, the crew of 16 dropped their deadly payload from the skies on an unsuspecting public largely unaware of

believed to have hit Union Street in Tipton, with around five of the devices falling all

**Devastating night of the Zeppelins** 

One also fell outside Tipton railway One also fell outside Inpon railway station and more around Barnfield Road trading estate. In Union Street, two houses were demolished and others damaged, the gas main was set alight. In all 14 people were killed in the town as the bombs struck at around 8 o'clock that night.

### Treatment

News reports at the time were subject to military censorship, and the Express & Star was only allowed to describe the Black Country raids as being in Staffordshire.

An inquest was held jointly for 13 of the victims of the Tipton bombing on February 3. The 14th victim Louisa York, who worked as nurse, had been taken for treatment at Dudley Guest Hospital and her inquest was held elsewhere. The ruling from the inquest on the death certificates states 'Wilful murder against the Kaiser of Germany and his son the Crown Prince as being accessory to

4 St. Mary's Road, Bearwood,

Smethwick, B67 5DG

and after the fact at the insistence of the inquest jury. A young couple, Maud and William Fellows, who were unmarried but had the same name, were killed after one bomb hit as they walked along a canal towpath in nearby Bradley.

Their death is commemorated by a plaque

on the wall of the Bradley pumping station.

Mr Nicholls, of Beverston Road, has been holding an exhibition at Tipton Library, bringing together the images and stories bringing together the images and stories through trawling the archives, including those of the Express & Star for the exhibition. At the time, the Express & Star reported that 26 people had been killed instantly during the night, but Mr Nicholls' research found the death toll was significantly higher. Mr Nicholls says a total of 33 people were killed in the raid."

Mr Nicholls is now considering putting together a book of his research. The exhibition, which returns to the library from March 13 to 28, was put together to coincide with a special community opera, Zeppelin Dreams which runs at the Wolverhampton Grand on March 20 and 21.

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## COMPETITION



## Way to make mum feel extra special

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doubt.
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Wombourne (one of three Lisa Shepherd salons in the Midlands – the others are in Kidderminster and Birmingham).

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colour make-over Lisa's team have a mission – to make your hair beautiful and you feel great.

With our Mother's Day competition

will both receive a full restyle and colour make-over at the Wombourne salon, worth £140 each.

Lisa is known in the Midlands as the 'people's hairdresser' and renowned for her creative colour, beautiful styling and expertise for all things hair.

## Challenge

Local girl Lisa recently undertook the biggest challenge of her career so far when she presented at the Redken European Symposium at Olympia in London – to an audience of 3,000 hairdressers from 26 countries. Lisa has certainly come a long way since training for her career at Kidderminster College and is now honoured in the hairdresserion industry as the

in the hairdressing industry as the 'aueen of colour





To be in with a chance of winning simply tell us how many Lisa Shepherd Salons there are?

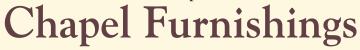
Snepnerd Salons there are? Send in your answer to Lisa Com-petition, Chronicle editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WY1 IES. Closing date: March 13. Usual rules apply. Editor's decision is final.



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## **NEWS**

## No waiting as scheme is on track, say chiefs

veal the extent of the trans-formation that HS2 could make to the centre of Birmingham.

Experts hope the new city centre station will give the economy a £1.3 billion annual boost and cre-

£1.3 billion annual boost and create 14,000 jobs.

The Birmingham Curzon HS2 masterplan will transform 141 hectares and was has been unveiled by Birmingham City Council.

At the heart of the scheme will be a new city centre station – Birmingham Curzon – where HS2 will terminate on its 49-minute journey from London.

Developments surrounding the sta-

Developments surrounding the sta-tion will make this one of the largest urban regeneration schemes in Brit-ain, and the largest redevelopment so far announced on the back of the high-

Proposals include the creation of over 14,000 jobs, 600,000 sq metres of new employment space and 2,000 new

homes.
Council chiefs say the massive cash injection will support the city's creative, learning and research sectors and the booming professional and financial services industry.

The unveiling of the plans came decisits are not be being for the first the first party begins for the first party.

spite cross-party backing for the £42 billion line being thrown into doubt. Tory and Labour MP5 from flood and storm ravaged constituencies said they would refuse to support the line unless major improvements were made to the

major improvements were made to the West Country railway network. City leaders in Birmingham however hailed the potential of HS2 as a catalyst for urban regeneration and called on political leaders to push ahead with the rail scheme and help unlock growth across the country. The Curzon HS2 Masterplan is the latest multi-million pound boost for Birmingham's city centre. The £600



The new Curzon envisaged station in Birmingham under the impressive canopy



The remarkable-looking building which will be part of the HS2 masterplan

million transformation of New Street city centre park in Birmingham for

million transformation of New Street Station will be completed next year along with a £128 million Midland Metro extension linking the station with the tram line at Snow Hill. Proposals have also been tabled for Paradise Circus in the heart of the city including a second Metro tram exten-sion continuing on from New Street Station to Centenary Square. Eastside City Park was the first new

city centre park in Birmingham for more than 130 years when it opened right next to Curzon Street in Decem-ber 2012, and the critically-acclaimed £188 Library of Birmingham opened last year – proving a magnet for tour-ist and a centre for learning since. Sir Albert Bore, leader of Birming-ham City Council said: "We're not waiting around for HS2 to get built before we get started."



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## Rotary run's £2k boost for mayoral charity fund

THE MAYOR of Dudley's charities are set to run up a massive total after a £2,000 donation from the organisers of a fun run through Halesowen. The Rotary Club of Halesowen and Rowley Regis handed over the cash raised from the Great Black Country Road Run held last year. The Mayor, Councillor Alan Finch, took part in 10-kilometre run through Halesowen along with several other councillors and council staff. Organisers agreed to add the Mayors' charities to the official list of worthwhile causes. It means Hearing Dogs for Deaf People and White House Cancer Support in Dudley got a share of the total. Members of the Rotary Club presented the mayor with the money at the Council House, Dudley. Councillor Finch said: "It was a great event and I've still got the blisters to prove it. But to see this huge amount of money going to my two charities makes it all worthwhile."

This year's race takes place on September 21. There will be both a 10k and a 5k route around Halesowen. People can get more information and

This year's race takes place on September 21. There will be both a 10k and a 5k route around Halesowen. People can get more information and register at the www.bostinrun.com website.

"I am hugely grateful to the Rotary Club of Halesowen and Rowley Regis and everyone who took part in the run for helping to raise this fantastic total," Councillor Finch added.



Dudley Mayor Councillor Alan Finch with Rotarians Alan Bowler, Barry Wheeler and president Brian Maxfield

## NEC to be sold in deal Worth at least £300m THE NATIONAL Exhibition Centre Group is to be sold off as a coucli tries to cope with £1 billion of debts from

off as a council tries to cope with £1 billion of debts from equal pay claims.

Conservative estimates have suggested the NEC Group, including the LG Arena, International Convention Centre and National Indoor Arena in Birmingham, could be worth at least £300 million.

Birmingham City Council this week confirmed it was seeking offers for the NEC Group.

The NEC Group is said to bring more than £2 billion a year to the West Midlands economy and supports 29,000 jobs.

But the city council is being forced by a court to settle claims of thousands of women employees who were paid less than other workers, mainly men, for doing equivalent jobs. One law firm alone is said to have as many as 4,000

The City Council has stressed it wants to ensure the current use of the exhibition centre, ICC and the two arenas are preserved.

## Clare's Law will allow checks on partners

have the right to find out if their boyfriend has a secret violent past under new laws.

Clare's Law, which enables women and men to ask police for background checks that could reveal By Rob Golledge whether they are at risk of attack or abuse, is be-

of attack or abuse, is being brought into effect this month.

It gives potential victims a 'right to know', which allows police to disclose sensitive information about a partner even if an individual has not asked for it.

The expansion of Clare's Law nationally comes after successful pilots in Manchester, Gwent, Wiltshire and Nottingham during which more than 400 women were given sensitive women were given sensitive information such as details

women were given sensitive information such as details of a partner's criminal record or complaints that hade been made about them. West Mercia and Staffordshire Police are this week preparing for the roll out on Saturday while West Midlands Police hope to bring it in by the end of the month. Staffordshire Police Chief Constable Mike Cunningham said: "Domestic abuse shatters lives. It can not only affect the victim but any children living with them and the wider family. "Domestic abuse is rarely a one-off and tends to escalate in frequency and se-

a one-off and tends to escalate in frequency and severity over time. This new scheme allows people the choice to get out of a potential abusive situation."

Detective Superintendent Steve Cullen from West Mercia Police said: "Clare's Law will allow victims to

## By Rob Golledge

apply to us to understand what their partners past history may be, and where it is appropriate to do so we will disclose information in order that victims may make an informed decision around their own safety."

The scheme is named after Clare Wood, who was murdered by ex-boyfriend George Appleton at her Salford home in February 2009. She was unaware of

Salford home in February 2009. She was unaware of his domestic abuse history. Her family campaigmed for a change in the law to support actual, and potential, victims of domestic violence. A disclosure about previous domestic abuse offending is aimed at protecting potential victims. It will help people make a more informed decision on whether to continue a relationship. to continue a relationship, and provides further help

and provides further help
and support to assist people
making that choice.
The scheme also allows a
third party, such as a parent, neighbour or friend, to
apply if they have concerns
about someone's welfare.
A panel, made up of police, probation and other
agencies, will thoroughly
check requests to ensure information is only passed on
where it is lawful, proportionate and necessary.
People with concerns

People with concerns about being harmed by their partner can make an appli-cation by calling 101.

## **Skills and pay below** par in Black Country

PEOPLE in the Black Country are paid less, have fewer workplace skills and are in worse physical shape than the UK average, a detailed new report has found.

At the same time, the area has become the UK's centre for high value manufacturing with 90,000 people working in 5,000 companies. Components made in the Black Country are fitted in virtually every car and aircraft made in the UK.

The challenges facing the communities in Dudley.

the UK.

The challenges facing the communities in Dudley, Sandwell, Wolverhampton and Walsall have been laid out in an economic review of the area. Compiled by the economic intelligence unit of the Black Country Consortium — the body co-ordinating efforts to regenerate the area— the report showed the number of people in the workforce rose by 3,000 last year. But, while 9,000 jobs were created in the private sector, 6,000 were lost in the public sector as cuts bit deep.













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## Doddy backs Hippodrome campaign



Veteran comedian Ken Dodd has pledged his support for the campaign to save the Dudley Hippodrome

LEGENDARY comic Ken Dodd has revealed his ambition Hill theatre as part of regeneration plans and then offered to host a charity concert to help save Dudley Hippodrome. his support for the campaign to save the theatre. Hundreds cheered the veteran entertainer as he made reference to his love for the town's historic venue during a

show at Dudley Town Hall on Saturday.

He raised the roof when he said it was a 'pity' Dudley Council continued to pursue plans to demolish the Castle

At his marathon show, which lasted more than five hours and finished at 12.35am, he said: "I recall playing at Dudley Hippodrome umpteen times. It was such a pity to hear this news but I would go as far to say I would quite willingly put a show on free of charge to help the campaign."

alytic converter has received a suspended sentence.

a suspended sentence.
Police were called to reports of two
men acting suspiciously near cars in
Cambridge Road, Dudley, on January
27, Dudley Magistrates Court heard.
Anthony Price and another man were found with a catalytic converter stolen from a Peugeot in the same street and tools used in similar thefts.

At an earlier hearing the 33-year-old

from Rookery Park, Pensnett, pleaded guilty to theft from a motor vehicle.

Mrs Maxine Jarrousse-Jones, prosecuting, said: "Officers found a catalytic converter which they were able to match to a Peugeot in the road. Cuts on the catalytic converter and exhaust are so unique they are like a finger-print."

print."
Officers found two car jacks, a pipe cutter and mole grip, commonly used in the theft of the converters, which contain precious metals. Stephen

Hamblett, defending, said that Price had taken the catalytic converter to fund his drug habit.

District Judge Michael Wheeler said:

"These offences are becoming more and more prevalent. They are costing private motorists and insurance companies a huge amount of money."

Price was given 12 weeks prison.

Price was given 12 weeks prison suspended for a year,12 month super-vision order with drug rehabilitation required, and ordered to pay £80 sur-charge, £85 costs, £100 compensation.





## Praise as fewer are re-offending

BOSSES at Sandwell Probation service are celebrating after coming top in the list of local authorities in England and Wales un-

der new figures released by the Ministry of Justice that looks at re-offending between October 1 2012 and September 31 2013.

The latest data shows that, out of the 4,631 people dealt with by Sandwell probation team during that period, 232 went on to re-offend, which meant that borough had

to re-orient, when meant that borough had a re-offending rate that is 29.4 per cent better than the Government's predicted rate. Bob Jones, Police and Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands visited the probation team in Sandwell to congratulate them. The same report showed that Wolverhampton came sixth and Dudley seventh in the Government chart, with re-offending rates 19.9 per cent and 19.6 per cent better.

## **Great-grandfather dies** after van collision with tanker

A VAN driver, who died in a crash with a tanker, has been named by police as Robert Coulson.

11.45am when the collision involving a DAF tanker took place. Mr Coulson had to be freed from the vehicle by fire crews.

Mr Coulson, who lived with his wife Sheila

The 71-year-old great-grandfather, Coppice Lane, Quarry Bank, was airlifted to Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hos-pital following the accident on the A449 Worcester Road on Tuesday of last week.

He died shortly after arrival.

Mr Coulson was driving a white Citroen Nemo
panel van towards Kidderminster at around

and was known to his family as Bob, worked as a part-time delivery driver at JS Optical Ltd on the Hoo Farm Industrial Estate, near to where

the Hoo Farm Industrial Estate, near to where the accident happened.

Mr Coulson married Sheila in 1980 and they would have celebrated their wedding anniver-sary on Friday. He also leaves a step-daugh-ter, Lindy Parkes, her five children, and one great-grandchild. Mr Coulson was born in

School, Stourbridge. He lived in Shropshire for a while and also spent time lin South Africa. But the majority of his life was spent in the Black Country. He was a keen footballer when he was

Country. He was a keen footballer when he was younger, later turning to golf.

He worked at the Eaton factory on Thorns Road, Brierley Hill, before retiring. Mrs Parkes said: "Everyone liked him. He was a fun man, someone you could have a real laugh with."

Police are asking for witnesses to call Pc Lee Baker on the non-emergency number 101, quoting the incident reference 221-S-250214.

## Glass centre gets new look

LARGE glass windows will front the Rus-kin Glass Centre building, Stourbridge, which is getting £483,018 of funding frou the European Regional Development Fund. A total of £5 million is being ploughed into improving the historic glass centre. The final phase will include the building of a visitor recention heritage display area

The final phase will include the building of a visitor reception, heritage display area, workshops and space for small businesses. But before work begins, archaeological digs are taking place at the site. These have already unearthed the remains of the glass cone which once stood there but was believed to have been destroyed years ago. The cash will also fund the conservation of the Ruskin Mill Land Trust's rare glass blawing moulds and the appointment of a

blowing moulds and the appointment of a heritage outreach officer to deliver a three-year programme of activities.

### It's all HAPPENING... **(1)** LG Arena the nia









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Men's socks fit sizes 6-11. Available in two pack options: C217 contains 3 black, 3 navy, 3 mid-grey and 3 olive; C218 contains 2 black, 2 indigo, 2 oatmeal, 2 mid-grey, 2 red and 2

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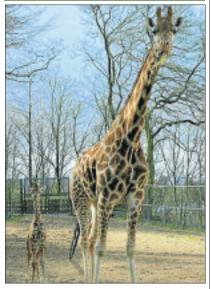
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## A precious new arrival at the zoo



Tall order — six foot baby giraffe Kito is pictured with one of his parents at Dudley Zoo

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} \begin{tabular}{ll} \beg$ 

en his first steps at Dudley Zoo.

The baby, who measures a mighty 6ft, was born last week to mother 10-year-old Mia. The father is 13-year-old

week to mother 10-year-old Mia. The father is 13-year-old Kubwa.

The youngster's name means precious in Swahili

The zoo's assistant curator, Richard Brown, said: "Kito's arrival has delighted everyone at Dudley Zoo.

"He spent a day in the internal den bonding with mum and we decided to let the pair of them out in the paddock to enjoy the fine weather. He is quite a tall baby for a newborn and a very handsome chap and no doubt will fast become a favourite with visitors."

Rothschild's are the world's rarest sub-species of giraffe, originating from Uganda and Kenya. Each giraffe has a coat pattern as unique as a fingerprint.

# Thug jailed for kicking a woma

a savage attack on a bus passenger that al-most cost his female victim an eye. Marinus Howell hurled a can of drink down the aisle, hitting an elderly woman and soaking passenger Sandy

hitting an elderly woman and soaking passenger Sainly Young.
Howell reacted when Miss Young called him an 'idiot,' Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.
The 33-year-old father-of-four put down a child he was holding and walked through the 276 bus towards Miss Young.

Miss Cathlyn Orchard, prosecuting, explained: "She thought she was going to be struck by him and lashed out, hitting him in the face. He then picked her up and threw her to the floor before repeatedly kicking her in jailed for a year. soon afterwards.

He had been denying the offence, claiming self-defence, and only changed his plea to guilty to the assault on the day his proposed trial was due to start. Howell was jailed for a year.

Due to his attack a blood repeatedly kicking her in the face. He finally stopped when a woman, who was travelling with him, inter-

Due to his attack a blood

Due to his attack a blood clot formed in one of Miss Young's eyes that had to be removed at hospital.

Judge John Wait told him: "You involved yourself in an argument at the front of the bus that had nothing to do with you before carrying out a serious unprovoked assault in a public place.
"You kicked the victim in vened."
Howell, of Kemberton
Road, Finchfield, Wolverhampton, had boarded the
bus at the Merry Hill Centre. Howell hurled the can
after he became involved
in a dispute between the
driver and another passenger at a Netherton stop on
September 25, 2012.
The defendant rot off the

assaut in a public place.

"You kicked the victim in
the face close to her eye. It is
fortunate for her, and you,
that she did not lose her
sight as a result of this." The defendant got off the bus before police reached



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## What's On!

## 1960s and 70s pop legend returns

A HITMAKER of the rock 'n' roll era who found suc-cess again in the 1970s, Neil Sedaka, is back to tour

cess again in the 1970s, Neil Sedaka, is back to tour the UK this autumn.
The 74-year-old New Yorker will be celebrating more than 50 years in popular music, success which began in 1959 with Ohl Carol. He had early 60s hits with Calendar Girl, Happy Birthday Sweet Sixteen and signature song Breaking Up Is Hard To Do.
Sedaka relaunched his career in the 1970s, enjoying hits with Laughter In The Rain, Love Will Keep Us Together and Solitaire. He also co-wrote Peter Kay's favourite (Is This The Way To) Amarillo. He is in concert at Birmingham Symphony Hall on November 3. Tickets are £50 and £45 plus fees. Call 0121 345 0600.

### **Bad Shepherds** date for summer

COMEDIAN and singer Ade Edmondson is bring-ing his band back to the Black Country this sum-

Black Country this summer.

Adrian Edmondson and the Bad Shepherds, who play punk rock songs on traditional instruments in a folk style, will be in concert at the Robin 2 in Bilston on June 15.

Advance tickets are £19.50 and the price on the door will be £22. Call 01902 401211.

401211.
Edmondson came to fame in the 1980s as punk student Vyvyan in TV series The Young Ones. The 57-year-old won Celebrity Masterchef last year and presents Ade In Britain.

## Canadian crooner Bublé is ready to wow fans at the N

## A brass task for revival

ACTORS visited the Black ACTORS visited the Black Country Living Museum to prepare for their roles in Brassed Off at Wolver-hampton Grand Theatre next month.

Cast members appeared with the Jackfield Elcock

with the Jackfield Elcock Reisen Brass Band, whose members played for guests at the attraction.

The National Brass Band Championship competitors, based in Shropshire, will be joining the actors on stage when the show runs at the Grand from April 8 to 12. Conductor Chris Smith, a euphonium player, said: "It's great for the band to be involved with the play. It's been a wonderful exper-rience for all of us."

rience for all of us.

rience for all of us."

The play, which follows
the fortunes of a Yorkshire
colliery brass band, has
been revived this year in
recognition of the 30th anniversary of the 1984 miner's strike.

To book tickets visit

www.grandtheatre.co.uk or call (01902) 429212.

THURSDAY 6TH MARCH

FRIDAY 7TH MARCH

MÒNDAY 10TH MARCH

TUESDAY 11TH MARCH

WEDNESDAY 12TH MARCH

DISCO DISCIPLES



Brassed Off actors Luke Adamson and Andrew Dunn with band members at the museum

IT'S A Beautiful Day for Michael Bublé fans when the Canadian crooner arrives in the West Midlands next week for concerts at the National Indoor Arena on Wednesday and

The 38-year-old singer, who has brought style and classy showmanship to the music scene in recent years, had major success last year with his latest album To Be Loved which yielded the hit singles It's A Beautiful Day, Close Your Eyes and After All.

ter All.

The ice hockey loving showman was delighted during the recent Winter Olympics at Sochi when a medley of his tunes was used by US figure skaters Alex and Maria Shibutani for their

Maria Shibutani for their routine. His hit-packed set is likely to include Just Haven't Met You Yet and his sparkling versions of Cry Me A River, Feeling Good, To Love Somebody and Try A Little Tenderness.
Other gigs of the week include a St Patrick's Day warm up with The Dublin Legends – former members of The Dubliners – Sean Cannon, Eamonn Campbell, Patsy Watchorn and Gerry O'Connor at Birmingham Town Hall tomorrow night. Bombay Bicycle Club bring their indie rock sound to Brum's O2 Academy on Saturday, the same venue

Saturday, the same venue on Sunday night will be sold

Michael Bublé - NIA dates out for US pop-punk band All Time Low. In the O2 Academy's

COMEDIAN Joel Dommett performs in Wolverhampton as part of his debut stand-up tour tomorrow night (Friday).

The star of BBC's Impractical Jokers and the host of Made In Chelsea spin-off Live In Chelsea pommett takes the Slade Rooms stage in Broad Street from Spm for his 'Practical Joker' show.

Dommett gained rave reviews for his debut Edinburgh Festival show Neon Hero in 2011 and follow-up Nunchuck Silver Medallist. Nunchuck Silver Medallist. Tickets are £11. Call 0870 320 7000.

Chelsea Joker

and Sinnerman COMEDIAN Joel Dom-mett performs in Wolver-

320 7000.

Taking to the stage at the Slade Rooms tonight (Thursday) is ITV quiz chaser Paul Sinha. 'The Sinnerman', a qualified doctor, is also an accomplished stand-up comic. Tickets £13.20. Doors 7pm.

## Fallen women theme to operas

FALLEN women are the theme for Welsh National Opera's spring season at Birmingham Hippodrome. WNO stage Boulevard Solitude tonight, Hans Werner Henze's 1950s setting of the Manon Lescaut story. The more famous Manon Lescaut by Puccini, a UK debut for Polish director Mariusz Trelinski, rector Mariusz Trelinski, is tomorrow. Verdi's tearjerker La traviata ends the season on Saturday.

In the O2 Academy's second venue on Sunday The English Beat featuring Birmingham's own Dave Wakeling will revive 80s memories with Mirror In The Bathroom. And 2-Tone fans will be back on Thursday to see The Selecter.

Meanwhile Churchas are season on Saturday.

The theme continues in
Errollyn Wallen's Anon,
a WNO production with
Sampad South Asian Arts,
at Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton, on
March 25 and at The Mac
in Edgbaston on March 26. Meanwhile, Chyrches are at Digbeth's Institute on Monday and 60s survivor Rodriguez, the maker of cult hit Sugar Man, plays the Symphony Hall on Tuesday.





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## What's On!

## **SATURDAY'S TV** 8.03.14

## CHOICE



Jonathan Ross

## The Jonathan Ross Show ITV, 9.20pm Jennifer Hudson has had

an extraordinary decade From being a runner-up on American Idol in 2004, to American Idou In 2004, to her Grammy-winning eponymous debut album, and her Oscar, Bafta, and Golden Globe-winning performance in Dreamgirls, she epitomises the American Dream. In the last of the current series. last of the current series, Jennifer drops into the studio to promote her UK concert for the Free the Children charity. Tycoon Richard Branson will also be discussing a life in business and desedavil business and daredevil adventures; Sue Perkins chats about the success of The Great British Bake Off.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Mary Berry Cooks. (R) 12.00 Football Focus. BEC News. (R) 12.00 Football Focus. BEC News. Regional News; Weather. 1.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 2.00 Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Ireland v Italy (Kick-off 2.30pm.) John Inverdale introduces coverage of the opening match in coverage of the opening match in coverage of the opening match in Schapinchip. 4.25 BBC News. Regional News; Weather. 4.40 Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Scotland VFrance (Kick-off 5.00pm). Scotland vFrance (Kick

The National Lottery Live 9.10 The National Lottery Live.
9.20 Casualty. lain tries to assist a distressed ex-Army friend, whose paranoia over his wife is at breaking point, while set breaking point, while pelps set Lovy is keen eye pelps and the pelps are love to the pelps are love to the pelps and the pelps are love to the pelps are to the pelps are

Hotspur and West Bromwich Albion v Manchester United; National Lottery Update.

11.45 The Football League Show.
Highlights and all the goals
from today's fixtures in the
Championship, League One

6.30 Sport Relief's Top Dog. (R) 7.00 Sport Relief's Top Dog. (R) 7.30 Sport Relief's Top Dog. (R) 8.00 Sport Relief's Top Dog. (R) 8.30 Sport Relief's Top Dog. (R) 9.00 Live Athletics 11.30 Escape Pictures 1.00 Film: The Trouble with Harry. (1955) 2.35 Film: The Man Who Knew Too Much. (1956) 4.30 Final Score. 5.10 Live 4.30 Final Score. 5.10 Live

8.15 Dad's Army. Captain Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring is determined that all his men should be well-shod and have battle-worthy feet, so he starts a regimen involving lengthy route marches. (R) The Perfect Morecambe & Wise. Another selection of classic Sketches and routine from the comedy duo's shows.

shows.

37 Days. The continental powers are pushed to the brink of war, and Sir Edward Grey seems unsure as to whether Britain should keep out of the impending conflict Last in the series.

10.15 Stewart Lee's Comedy Vehicle, Another ramble through the mind of the comedian.

comedians Cal Wilson, Jack Whitehall and Jimmy Carr join Stephen Fry and regular panellist Alan Davies for an extended edition of the obscure

euition of the obscure general knowledge quiz. 9 Film: Milk. (2008) Biopic of politician and activist Harvey Milk, who became America's first openly gay elected official in the 1970s. Directed by Gus Van Sant and starring Sean Penn.

**1.30 Film:** Nemesis. (1992) **3.00** This Is BBC Two.

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. 6.10 Dino Dan. (R) 6.25 Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) 6.45 Canimals. (R) 6.55 Canimals. (R) 7.00 Canimals. (R) 7.10 Om Nom Stories. (R) 7.19 Views. 9.30 Dinner Date. (R) 7.19 Views. 9.30 Dinner Date. (R) 10.25 Murder. She Wrote. (R) 11.25 ITV News. Weather. 11.30 The Crocodile Hunter Diaries. (R) 12.00 Live FA Cup Football. 3.00 The Illusionists. (R) 4.05 The Chase. (R) 5.05 Off Their Rockers. (R) 5.35 Regional Programme: Weather. 5.45 ITV News; Weather. 6.00 You've Been Framed!

Weather.5.49 II / News; Weather.
6.00 You've Been Framed!
Strikes Back! Comedy
compilation of Harry Hill's
most off-the-wall
observations inspired by
viewers' home videos,
featuring potshots at popular
culture

7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. The Geordie duo Takeaway. The Geordie duo play an undercover prank on David Dickinson, go head to head in another round of Ant v Dec and join dance troupe the Mazeppa Cossacks in the End of the Show Show.

End of the Show Show.

The Cube. A teacher and a pizza delivery man tackle a series of tough challenges, from agility tests to skills trials, aiming to win a jackpot of £250,000. Phillip Schofield hosts.

Schofield hosts.

9.20 The Jonathan Ross Show.
With Jennifer Hudson,
Richard Branson, Sue
Perkins and Elbow.

10.20 ITV News; Weather.
10.35 FA Cup Highlights. Action from the sixth round.
11.25 All You Can Eat. Supersized meals, restaurant challenges and eating contests. (R)
12.20 Jackpot247.

## **CHANNEL 4**

9.00 Live Paralympic Winter Games. Further coverage of the 11-3.01 fix Morning Line. 12.30 Deal or No Deal. 1.30 Channel 4. Racing. Live coverage from Sandown Park and Wolverhampion. 10 Come Dine With Web. (R) 5.10 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.10 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.40 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.40 Come Dine with Me. (S) 5.40 Channel 4 News. 6.30 Paralympic Winter Games Highlights. Jonathan Edwards and Ade Adepitan present a look back at the present a look back at the Soch in Jonathan Dine Million 9.00 Live Paralympic Winter Games, Further coverage of the

aptire sking and wheelchair curling.

Crufts 2014. Clare Blading presents highlights Balding presents highlights Blading presents highlights along show held at the NEC in Birmingham, leaturing coverage of the utility and toy group judging events.

Hostages. Duncan is ordered to the up loose ends as investigators get nearer to uncovering the conspiracy, and the FBI agent takes the next step in his master plan by giving Ellen the poison.

10.00 Film: X-Men: The Last Stand. (2006) The mutant heroes battle old ally Jean Grey, returned from the dead as the destructive and

as the destructive and seemingly unstoppable Phoenix. Superhero sequel, starring Hughl Jackman and McKellen.

12.00 fMcKellen.

12.00 Film: Cloverfield. (2008) Found-footage monster thriller, starring Michael Stainl-David.
1.35 Elackout. (f) 2.55 Hollyoaks. Omnibus. (f) 5.05 Trans World Sport.

## **CHANNEL 5**

6.00 Milkshake! 10.05 Film: 2005; Samilace Ai dividenture, starring Josh Hutcherson and Jonah Bobo. 12.00 Film: The Fifth Element. (1997) Sci-fla daventure, starring Bruce Willis. 2.25 Film: Wirnbledon. (2004) Romantic Wirnbledon. (2004) Romantic Dunst and Paul Bettarny. 4.10 Film: Columbo: The Greenhouse Jungle. (1972) Detective drama. starring Peter Falk. 5.45 Film: Columbo: Double Shock. (1973) Detective Double Shock. (1973) Detective Landau.

NCIS. An explosion at a mausoleum exposes a number of freshly dismembered bodies, prompting the team to begin a multiple murder investigation. Abby has a personal problem to deal with. (R)

with. (R)
8.00 NCIS. A supposedly dead marine suddenly regains consciousness on the autopsy table, leaving the team struggling to solve the mystery of how he came to be in such a strange predicament. (R)
8.55. S News Weekend

be in such a strange predicament. (R)

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 UFC Fight Night London:
 Live. Alexander Gustafsson v Jimi Manuwa. Coverage of the light heavyweight control where at the light heavyweight control where will be looking to record a surprise victory.

12.05 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. 3.10 Benidorm ER. (R)

4.00 Wildlife SOS. (R) 4.25 Make It Big. (R) 4.50 The Funky Valley Show. (R) 5.00 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.02 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.25 The Funky Valley Show. (R) 5.40 Hana's Helpine. (R)

## **DIGITAL**

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes:
Revenge of the Fifth 7.25 Doctor
Who 8.15 Top Gear 9.15 Film:
Blades of Glory. Comedy, starring
Will Ferrell, Jon Heder, Will Armett
and Amy Poehler. (2007) 10.45
Family Guy
BBC Four

Rainiy Guy
7.00 Great Barrier Reef 8.00 Lost
Kingdoms of South America 9.00
Salamander 10.35 Totally British
70s Rock 'n' Roll 11.35 The Ballad
of Mott the Hoople ITV2
2.45 Film: Curly Sue (1991) 4.50
Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big
Bang (2010) 7.00 Film: Big
Bang (2010) 7.00 Film: Pin
Incredible Hulk. Comic-book
adventure, starring Edward Norton.
(2008) 9.15 Film: The Sweetest
Thing (2002) 11.10 Film: Pitch
Black (2000)

2.50 Film: Columbo: Troubled Waters (1975) 4.55 Agatha Christie's Margle 7.00 Rosemary & Thyme 8.00 Doc Martin 9.00 Endeavour 11.00 A Touch of Frost

11.45 Live Darts. The UK Open. 5.00 Eric Bristow: Sports Life Stories 6.00 I Want That Car 7.00 Live Darts. The UK Open. 11.00 Film: Jarhead (2005)

E4
3.30 The Big Bang Theory: It All
Started with a Big Bang 4.00 How I
Met Your Mother 5.00 Rude(ish)
Tube 6.00 The Big Bang Theory
7.00 How I Met Your Mother 8.00
The Tomorrow People 9.00 Film:
Beverly Hills Cop II (1987)

3.05 August Rush (2007) 5.15 The Death and Life of Charlie St Cloud (2010) 7.05 St Trinian's (2007) 9.00 Knight and Day (2010) 11.10 Vanilla Sky (2001)

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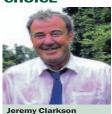
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## What's On!

## **SUNDAY'S TV** 9.03.14

### CHOICE



The first of a two-part programme in which Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May Hammond and James May are challenged to build a bridge over the River Kwai in Thailand. In order to do that, however, they have to drive across Burma, a country that has been largely elegand to Westerness largely closed to Westerners for more than 40 years, and for more than 40 years, and must make the trip in three lorries, each bought sight unseen from the internet on a limited budget. What follows is an epic journey of beautiful scenery, regular advertible programs. adversity, ongoing malfunction and the constant bickering of the three men.

6.00 Breakfast. 7.40 Match of the Day. (R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 The Big Questions. 11.00 Sunday Politics. 12.15 Wanted Down Under. (R) 1.00 BBC News. Weather. 1.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.45 Easpe to the Country. (R) 1.45 Easpe to the Country. (R) 5.00 Days of Pole to Pole. 5.30 Songs of Praise. 6.05 BBC News 6.30 Bardines Clarence or rows 3.630 BBC News 6.30 Bardines Clarence or rows 3.630 Bardines Cla

6.05 BBC News
6.30 Blandings. Clarence grows a
raggedy beard, much to the
dismay of Freddie, who
worries he has little chance
of impressing Hollywood
starlet Pauline Petite if his
father looks like an old

Countryfile. Reports on the latest rural developments. Including Weather for the Week Ahead. 7.00

Week Ahead.

Call the Midwile. A new friendship grows for Jenny when she is introduced to a patient's male cousin, while Chummy discovers her mother has discharged herself from hospital. Last in the series.

The Musketeers. A young girl is killed after being hit by Musketeers' investigations lead them to an extraordinary woman condemned to death for witchcraft.

10.00 BBC News
10.25 Film: Bruce Almighty.
(2003) God tires of a reporter's constant complaining, so passes on His powers to give him a taste of real responsibility. Comedy, with Jim Carrey, Morgan Freeman and Jennifer Aniston.

12.00 Film: Forget Me Not. (2010) 1.30 Weatherview. 1.35 BBC News.

6.00 This is BBC Two. 6.15 Film: Son of Kong. (1933) 7.15 Monty Don's Italian Gardens. (R) 8.15 Countryfile. (R) 9.15 Gardeners' World. (R) 9.45 Saturday (Kinden World. (R) 9.45 Saturday (Kinden Home Comforts. (R) 1.00 Michel Roux's Service. (R) 1.00 Michel Roux's Service. (R) 1.00 Live Athletics.

Flog It! Trade Secrets rom antiques a ollectibles. (R)

6.30 Mystery of the Moor. Investigating Bronze Age burial items discovered on Dartmoor.

Dartmoor.
Wild Burma: Nature's Lost
Kingdom. A team of filmmakers from the BBC's
Natural History Unit and
scientists from America's
Smithsonian Institution

Steffilists in Oir Allellicas Smithsonian Institution Smithsonian Institution Smithsonian Institution Institution

10.00 Mock the Week Looks Back at Travel. Another themed selection from the show's archives. (R)

10.35 Line of Duty. R) 11.35 Film: The Killing Fields. (1984) Fact-based drama starring Sam Waterston.

starring Sam Waterston.

1.50 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R)

2.45 Holby City. (R) 3.45 Silk. (R)

4.45 This Is BBC Two.

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. 6.10 Dino Dan. (R) 6.25 Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) 6.45 Canimals. (R) 6.55 Canimals. (R) 7.00 Canimals. (R) 7.10 M Nom Stories. (R) 7.20 Scoty. (R) 7.10 Canimals. (R) 7.10 M Nom Stories. (R) 7.20 Scoty. She Wrote. (R) 10.25 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 11.25 ITV News; Weather. 11.30 The Crocodile Hunter Diaries. (R) 12.30 River Monsters. (R) 1.30 Live FA Cup Football. 4, 20 Film: Live and Let 6.35 Realipoal Programme:

Regional Programme; Weather

Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Dancing on Ice. Phillip
Schoffield and Christine
Bleakley present the last-ever
final, and a show full of
surprises is promised as the
three remaining celebrities
battle it out. Last in the
series.

Mr Selfridge. Harry deals with a raft of problems on his with a raft of problems on his return from Berlin – not least the news of Henri's arrest – while Delphine provides the beleaguered staff with a much-needed morale boost.

10.00 ITV News at Ten: Weather 10.15 Birds of a Feather. Tracey and Sharon worry about their future. Last in the series. (R)

in Johann worry about their future. Last in the series. (R) 10.45 FA Cup Highlights. Action from today's matches in the Manchester (City v Wigan Athletic, Hull City v Sunderland and Sheffield United v Charlton Athletic. 11.45 Anglo-Welsh Cup Rugby Union. Northampton Saints v Saracens and Bath v Exeter Chemical Company of the Company o

LINERS. 12.40 The Store. 2.40 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) 4.10 ITV Nightscreen.

## **CHANNEL 4**

6.00 Live Paralympic Winter Games. Coverage of the second day of events in Sochi and Krasnaya Polyana, Russia. 11.00 Live Paralympic Winter Games. Live Paralympic Winter Games. Further coverage of the second day of events in Russia. 2.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 3.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 3.30 How I Met Your Mother. 4.00 The Simpsons. (R) 4.30 The Simpsons. (R) 5.00 Deal or No Deal.

Channel 4 News.
Paralympic Winter Games
Highlights. Jonathan
Edwards and Ade Adepitan
present a look back at the
second day of events in
Sochi and Krasnaya Polyana,
Russia, which included
alpine skiling and wheelchair
curling. 7 00

alpine skiing and wheelchair curling. Cruths 2014: Best in Show. Clare Balding presents highlights from the fourth and final day of Crufts, and the results of the 2014 dog hero, friends for life and best in show are announced. Last in the series. Film: One Day (2011). Film: One Day (2014)

Premiere. The 2U-year friendship between two university graduates is explored through the anniversaries of their first meeting. Romantic drama, with Anne Hathaway and Jim

11.05 Film: Working Girl. (1988)

Comedy, starring Melanie
Griffith.

1.15 The Good Wife. (R) 2.00 One
Born Every Minute. (R) 2.50 Supernanny U.S. (R) 3.35 Scation,
Supernanny U.S. (R) 3.36 Scation,
Cottage Bites. (R) 4.50 Freesports
on 4.5.15 Arenacross. 5.45 Live
Parallymipe Winter Games.
Coverage of the third day of events
in Sochi.

Listings supplied by Press Associa CHANNEL 5
6.00 Milkshakel: Peppa Pig. 6.05
Floary the Racing Car. (R) 6.15 Fifi
and the Flowertots. (R) 6.25 Bubble
Gupples. (R) 6.40 The Mr (R)
Show. (R) 6.30 Choles Closet. (R)
7.05 Robata and Custard Foo. (R)
7.10 Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) 7.25
Make Way for Noddy. (R) 7.40 City
7.10 Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) 7.25
Milkshakel Monkey. (R) 7.40 City
6.10 Friends. (R) 7.50 Milkshakel Bop
Box. (R) 7.55 Little Princess. (R)
8.10 The Abesilves of Bottle 10
8.25 Angelina Ballerina. (R) 8.35
Bert and Errie's Great Adventures.
(R) 8.45 Rupert Bear. (R) 9.00 Ben
and Hollys Little Kingdom.
9.15 Jelly Jamm. (R) 9.30
Endangers Singer Sanutrai. (R) 10.35
Power Rangers Megaforce. (R)
11.00 Access. (R) 11.05 Police
Interceptors. (R) 12.05 Ice Road
Truckers. (R) 1.00 Can't Pay? We'll
Take IR Away! (R) 2.00 The Hotel
Interceptors. (R) 11.05 Love Server
Weekend. 5.10 Film: Big Mommas:
Like Father, Like Son. (2011)
7.10 Film: Hancock. (2008)
Superhero comedy, starring **CHANNEL 5** 

## DIGITAL

BBC Three 7.00 The Voice UK 9.15 Hair 10.15 Family Guy 10.55 Bluestone 42 11.25 American Dad!

7.00 The Golden Age of Steam Railways 8.00 Shooting the Hollywood Stars 9.00 Good Sw. natiways 8.00 Shooting the Hollywood Stars 9.00 Good Swan, Bad Swan: Dancing Swan Lake 10.00 The Sky at Night 10.30 Film: We Have a Pope (2011)

We Have a Pope (2011)
ITV2
2.10 Film: Nanny Mchee and the Big Bang (2010) 4.25 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway 5.40
Film: Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed (2004) 7.30 Film: Unleashed (2004) 7.30 Film: Adventure, Starring George Clooney (1997) 10.00 The Only Way Is Essex 10.50 Party Wright Around the World 11.50 The Big Reunion 2014

2.45 Film: Columbo: Forgotten Lady (1975) 4.45 Lewis 6.55 Agatha Christie's Poirot 9.00 It'll Be Alright on the Night 10.00 Inspector Morse

11V4
12.45 Live Darts. The UK Open.
5.00 Police, Camera, Action! 6.00
Storage Wars 7.00 Live Darts. The
UK Open. 11.00 The Power of Darts

4.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 4.00 The Tomorrow People 5.00 Troy 6.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 6.30 The Big Bang Theory 8.00 Film: Employee of the Month (2006) 10.10 The Big Bang Theory 10.40 How I Met Your Mother

Film4
3.00 Silent Running (1972) 4.50
Clueless (1995) 6.45 Dear John
(2010) 8.50 Never Let Me Go
Special 9.00 Good Morning,
Vietnam (1987) 11.20 The Hills
Have Eyes 2 (2007)

The Hearing Aid Specialists

## Please tell me how I can claim my

7.10 Film: Hancock. (2011)
Superhero comedy, starring Will Smith.

9.00 Film: Blade: Trinity. (2004) The vampire hunter and a

thriller sequel, starring Wesley Snipes, dessica Biel ward Ryan Reynolds.

11.00 diction-capture aimmand fantasy, starring Ray Winstone.

1.10 SuperCasino. 3.05 The Lost Orphan: A Home for Mirela. (R) 4.00 Wildlife SOS. (R) 4.20 Make It Big. (R) 4.50 The Funky Alloy Show. (R) 5.00 Ranas 9 Helpline. (R) 5.06 Hanas 9 Helpline. (R)

The vampire hunter and a team of ruthless human sidekicks face a showdown with Dracula himself. Action thriller sequel, starring Wesley Snipes, Jessica Biel

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## **Film Choices**

Lock up, Channer 3, 11pm
A convict is transferred to a maximum security prison, where he falls foul of a sadistic warden with a grudge against him — and who abuses his position of power transke the inmate's life a misery and destroy his good relationship with the guards. Thriller, starring Sylvester Stallone, Donald Sutherland, Darlanne Fluegel and Tom

Tuesday McBride: Murder Past Midnight, Channel 5, 3.15pm The crusading lawyer is called up for jury duty in the case of a woman thought to have poisoned her wealthy husband. However, he ends up reluctantly agreeing to defend the accused when she is retried. Mystery, starring John Larroquette, Marta DuBois and Matt Lutz. (2005)

## Wednesday The Sea Inside, Channel 4, 12.50am

The Sea Inside, Channel 4, 12.50am
Fact-based drama about a fisherman who is paralysed from the neck down in a diving accident. After spending years dependent on others to take care of him, he decides to fight for the legal right to end his own life. Starring Javier Bardem, Belen Rueda, Lola Duenas, Mabel Ribera, Celso Bugallo, Clara Segura and Joan Delareu, le Sequish Cathage and Celsies (2004). Dalmau, In Spanish, Catalan and Galician, (2004)



### My Week with Marilyn, BBC2, 9pm

A film student gets a job as a production assistant on the set of movie The Prince and the Showgirl. He bears witness to the clash of conflicting personalities between leads Marilyn Monroe and Laurence Olivier, and becomes a confidant of the troubled, lonely Hollywood actress. Fact-based drama, starring Michelle Williams, Eddie Redmayne and Kenneth Branagh. (2011)

Friday
The Last Station, BBC2, 11.05pm
A naive young man is appointed as the private secretary
to the ageing Leo Tolstoy in 1910, but finds himself in
the middle of a bitter conflict. The writer has embraced strong socialist and pacifist principles and wishes to leave everything to the people – but his wife does not want to give up his legacy. Period drama, with James McAvoy, Christopher Plummer and Helen Mirren. (2009)

### Drillbit Taylor, Channel 4, 12,55am

Three kids fall foul of the local bully on their first day at high school, so they advertise for a bodyguard. They end up hiring a man who turns out to be a low-rent mercenary, but discover their new-found protector is not quite the hardened soldier of fortune he claims to be.

Comedy, starring Owen Wilson. (2008)

## **Pick of the Week**

## The nurses who deliver more than just babies

he midwives will have to deliver some bad news this week – it's the last in the current series. And that will leave over eight million fans wondering exactly what to do with their Sunday evenings.

But just why has this tale of East End London in the days before the contraceptive pill been such a hit, while other, more hyped dramas, struggle to get half as many viewers?

Helen George, who plays the convent's resident blonde bombshell Trixie, has a couple of theories.

"It think it's partly because of the original memoirs that were written by Jennilier Worth. She'd created such beautiful stories and her memoirs were so wonderful, and then Heidi Thomas continued that when she adapted it for the screen, so I think it begins with the writing and the stories.

If you've got a good story to tell,

people want to listen

"And then from that, the cast has been really great – it's wonderful that people like Pam Ferris and Miranda Hart wanted to do it.

"And I think it's a period of history that hasn't really been focused on in

There's also an interest in the clothes, which Helen admits she's shares. "We've had an amazing costume designer, and I'm told vintage fashions suit me – it's a period that really accentuates a woman's

"They hold you in all the right places, so it's quile flattering, although it's tough to eat on set sometimes — I'm sewn into my dresses and trousers because they are so tight. I'm thinking 'I can't even sit down properly, so eating pasta probably wasn't a good idea..."

But while the mix of babies, Fifties ocks and cycling nuns may sound a t twee, regular viewers will know that e show can also be hard-hitting – and some of those medical scenes aren't for the faint of heart.

Luckily, filming them isn't too much of an ordeal. Helen laughs: "It doesn't bother me, although I'm sure if in real life I was ever faced with one of these situations I'd be passing out on the floor. "Whist it looks very realistic on the screen, we have this thing where

the midwife on set holds a condom over the actress who's pretending to give birth, and she pops it when their waters break. You can't really feel squeamish because it's just a condom full of water!"

So, bear that in mind during any particularly graphic scenes in this episode as Jenny pays a visit to first-time mother Jeanette.

The two women quickly establish a rapport, which is just as well, as Jeanette needs frequent visits – and if that allows Jenny to see more of the mum-to-be's cousin Philip, that's just a perk of the job.

Do we sense another stylish Fifties wedding in the offing, or are we getting a bit ahead of ourselves?

Elsewhere, it looks like Chummy's nursing skills may be needed closer to home, as she discovers Lady Browne has discharged herself from hospital, leaving her daughter in despair.

The mums of Poplar have learned to heed Chummy's advice, so why won't her own mother listen to her?

Jessica Raine, Jenny Agutter and Judy Parfitt also star.



Miranda Hart stars in Call the Midwife, Sunday, BBC1, 8pm

## **Best of the Rest**

### Monday DCI Banks

## ITV, 9pm

In the conclusion of a two-parter, and the current series, Alar's colleagues are tracking Tracy's phone ecords in the hope of getting a lead. While searching for his abducted daughter, Banks pressures Al to lead him to Jaffar, aka 'Jaff', but his equest proves fruitless. Eventually Al does offer to help - at a price - and the detective considers reaking all the rules to meet his demands.

#leanwhile, Morton is suspended following the esult of Cabbot's internal investigation. With her ob hanging by a thread, Tracy's life in danger and Banks in a bad place' as his relationship with Annie is close to snapping, the DCI is going to have to move heaven and earth to keep his family and colleagues together.

### The Michael McIntyre Chat Show BBC1, 10.35pm

ward-winning Michael McIntyre gives Graham Norton and Alan Carr a run for their money this week as he joins the ranks of comedian/chat show host. Hopefully he'll be able to get some top tips from veteran broadcaster Terry Wogan. Pop star Lily Allen faced the benign wrath of Miriam
Margolyes the other week on Graham's Friday ght show, so hopefully she'll be a little more nimated here while plugging her new single Air Balloon. And Alan Sugar is always good fun on Norton's show, so let's hope McIntyre gets the best from him as well, or perhaps he'll be the one hearing those two fearful words which round off most editions of The Apprentice.

## Tuesday BBC1, 9pm

Following its successful debut series last year, Shetland is back for a new run of three two-part stories. Yes, we know TV isn't exactly short of crime dramas, but this one promises to be a cut above the rest, and this time around, the adaptations of best-selling author Ann Cleeves' books will be a little darker and more atmospheric. Douglas Henshall is back as DI Jimmy Perez, and the opening instalment guest stars Scottish stalwart Brian Cox

## Wednesday

### Law & Order: UK ITV. 9pm

Once we get over that Shard-centric intro – the most ubiquitous building in any London-based drama these days – the new run of Dick Wolf's Blighty-based saga grabs the viewer with a car chase involving an Astra pinched from Kentish Town. However, thanks to a shock development, the car being pursued comes to a sudden stop, as does the twentysomething driver's life. A discovery in his boot proves even more shocking: a man in his sixties who may have already been dead when he was put there. New arrival DS Joe Hawkins (Ben Bailey Smith) tries to discove has no hands or teeth.

## Astronauts: Living in Space

## Channel 4, 9pm This new three-part documentary explores what it is like to live and work outside the Earth's atmosphere for months at a time. The stars of the show are astronauts Rick Mastracchio, Koichi Wakata and Mike Hopkins. They'll be revealing the effects of microgravity on their bodies, and

demonstrate how everyday tasks such as eating, sleeping and washing are completed while weightless. We also get a rare insight into the International Space Station; how NASA supports the crews and families during their missions, and astronauts adjust back to life on Earth

The next part can be seen on Thursday (March 13).

### Thursday Holiday Hit Squad It Takes a Thief to Catch a Thief

## Channel 5, 8pm

If you missed the first instalment of this new series last week, it follows reformed master thief Richard Taylor and policeman Will Davies as they show retailers how to deal with the shoplifters who are pinching their profits. This week, the duo are in Romford to visit a designer clothing store, and find that while managers

Law & Order: UK, Wednesday, ITV, 9pm may be feisty,

they are no match for organised gangs of thieves – especially as there's no CCTV to help them. Can a new consignment of security gadgets, and a masterclass from Richard in the tricks of the shoplifting trade cut down on the pilfering?

### Friday

## Channel 4, 8pm

that the tag of the took years to get established as a lucrative movie and TV franchise, but now the Marvel universe is expanding like a loaf with too much yeast. As any fan will tell you, Phil Coulson (Clark Gregg) was apparently killed before the battle of New York during Avengers Assemble, but following his resurrection in this show last year, fans are desperate to see how he came back from the dead. Hopefully we'll find out a few answers this week as Coulson is grilled by the Centipede

## Jonathan Creek

clue to cracking the case?

BBC1, 9pm
Despite his wife's phone call promising a low-key 40th birthday party, the lucky Home Office junior Minister at the heart of this final mystery has a real surprise in store: a marquee, loads of gathered friends, and state-of-the-art music to entertain the masses. Except the team from mobile music providers'Sound Trax never quite make it to the event, and for the problemsolving genius organising the event she has no idea she's about to be kidnapped. Jonathan deduces that she may manage to send some coded SOS to the outside world. Could the phrase 'Waste not...' be the

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9

Sudoku

4

6

4 1

2

6

5

3

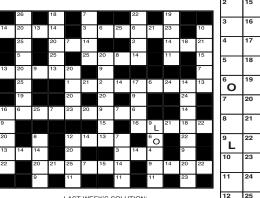
## Puzzler

## **Brain Gym**

No.263

### Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



 $\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 7 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1$ 

X B P V M R W H A Z O N

## **Double Crossword**

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

## Cryptic Clues:

- 6. He doesn't give
- much away (7)
- **7.** Let in or out (5)
- 9. It became yours (3)
- 10. Possibly ample
  here, but it doesn't
  last long (9)
- Are those on it making an empty
- protest? (6,5) **15.** Flighty artist's model (7.4)
- Such speed could be fatal (9)
- Margaret shortly turned to stone (3)
- 21. Polar story heard too often? (5)
- 22. A record? Yes, of course (3,4)

### Down

- 1. Seeing sense (5)
- 2. Get on in stages (3)
  3. Decline and fall (4)
- Unemployed crew
- with mischievous potentialities (4,5)

  5. Cafe and an inn
- to make money (7)
- Moving spirit (6)

  11. It circulates records
- (9)
  13. Vegetables on the
- course (6)
- (7)

  16. Opted to change a
- storehouse (5)
- 18. Meat axe (4)
- 20. A current recession

## 15. Dispute (11)17. Sycophant (9)

Quick Clues:

6. Incapacitate (7)

9. Non-professional (3)

12. Stamp collector (11)

7. Postpone (5)

10. Unremitting (9)

Across

- 19. Artful (3)
- **21.** Pretence (5)
- 22. Free (7)

### Down

- 1. Essential (5)
- 2. Prohibit (3)
- 3. Scheme (4)
- 4. Stupid (9)
- **4.** Stupid (9) **5.** Sorrow (7)
- 5. Sorrow (/)

  8. Determine (6)
- **11.** Stimulant (9)
- 13. Slacken (6)
- **14.** Big rock (7)
- **16.** Embrace (5)
- 18. Regular (4) 20. Wager (3)

### Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and

every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

SOLUTIONS >
6 3 7 5 1 8 9 2 4
9 4 1 7 6 2 3 5 8
5 2 8 4 9 3 7 1 6
8 5 4 1 1 3 6 2 9 7
1 6 3 2 7 9 8 4 5
7 9 2 8 5 4 6 3 1
2 7 5 9 8 1 4 6 3 1
2 7 5 9 8 1 4 8 6 3 2 5 1 7 9

8

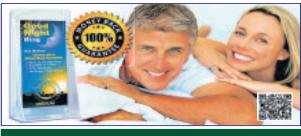
6

8

4 5

8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Hunting season; 8 Continue; 9 Deed; 10 Weasel; 12 Ordeal; 14 Anklet; 16 Damson; 18 Aria; 20 Generate; 22 High and mighty. Down: 1 European; 2 States; 3 Anon; 4 Asteroid; 5 Raided; 6 Bole; 11 Litigant; 13 Apostate; 15 Loathe; 17 Mirage; 19 Rail; 21 Name. OUICK - Across: 7 Indispensable; 8 Dispense; 9 Commission of the Commission of the



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Agents at £375,000.

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The pool table room has sliding doors, laminate flooring and wooden wall panelling. The kitchen/dining room has ceramic flooring, an oven, gas hob and extractor canopy. The detached garage/pool house has access to the sauna and shower room and the garden houses the swimming pool. Call Dixons Estate Agents on 01922 432011or visit the www.dixonsestateagents.co.uk website.



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  \*Loungels'tting room, dining room/
  conservatory \* Fitted kitchen/dayroom,
  utility room \*Principal bedroom with
  ensuite, 3 further bedrooms
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  \* EPC = E

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- \* First floor double bedrooms & bathroom with shower 
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Halesowen

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**HALESOWEN** 

**COCKSHED LANE** A three bedroom detached property which benefits from double glozing and a gas fired central heating system. The accommodation briefly comprises endosed porch, hallway, bunge, dining room, fitted kithen, landing, three bedrooms and family bathroom. Externally the property has an extensive driveway, integral garage and reer gardne. PCP ratings D. \$2220,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766

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WEST BOULEVARD

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## QUINTON



A well presented terroced property which benefits from a gas fired central heating system and double glazing. The accommodation briefly comprises, porch, hollway, cloakroom/we, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms and a bahtroom. Externally the property has a driveway and a rear garden. EPC rating is Grade C.

1725.000 QIIIINTON 1012 | 4217766

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## WOODGATE



### WOODGATE GARDENS

A traditional three bedroom terraced property which has been refurbished. The property benefits from double glazin and the accommodation briefly comprises entrance porch, hallway, cloakroom/WC, lounge, kitchen/diner, landing, three bedrooms and bathroom. Externally the property has o the front and rear. EPC rating is Grade D

£99.950

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## **OLDBURY**



### LINKS ROAD

A traditional three bedroom semi detached which benefits from gas fired central healing system and double glazing. The accommodation briefly comprises hallway, shower room, fitted kitchen, Jounge dining room, veranda, cloakroom/WC, utility room, landing, three bedrooms and bathroom. Externally there are gardens to the front and rear, driveway and garage and large side plot. EPC rating is grade D.

## **QUINTON**



### OVERDALE ROAD

We are pleased to offer for scale his three bedroom end terroce properly which has undergone some upgrading and briefly comprises entrances had, [lounge, kicher, niner lobby, ground floor bathroom, Wr., first floor landing and friee bedrooms. Externally there are garders to the front and error and off road porting. Double glatting, gas central bearing system and no upward chain. Internal viewing highly recommended. PPC graded P

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## QUINTON 0121 4217766



A two bedroom end of terrace property which benefits from a gas fired central heating system. The accommodation briefly comprises hallway, lounge/dining room, kitchen, landing, two bedrooms and shower room. Outside the property has is to three sides. EPC rating is grade D.

QUINTON 0121 4217766



RAMSAY ROAD

An imposing three bedroom semi datached property which benefits from gas fired central heating system and double glazing. The accommodation briefly comprises hallway, lounge, dining kitchen, clockroom/WC, landing, three bedrooms and bathroom. Externally there are gardens,

d bathroom. Externally there are gardens, and garage. EPC rating is Grade E

QUINTON 0121 4217766 £160.000

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QUINTON 0121 4217766

## HALESOWEN



A modern three bedroom semi detached property which benefits from gas fired central heating system and double glazzing. The accommodation briefly comprises entrance hall, lounge, kitchen/diner, landing, three bedrooms and bothroom. Externally there is a driveway, garage and a garden to the rear. EPC rating is grade C.

£160,000

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### QUINTON



HIGH STREET

A period end of herroced residence which benefits from double glazing and a gas fired central heating system. The accommodation briefly comprises entrance hall, Jounge, fitted kitchen, conservatory, landing, wo bedrooms and shower room. Externally the property has gardens to the front and rear. EPC Rating is Grade E

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### **OLDBURY**



## WESTMEAD DRIVE

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A traditional boy fronted link detached residence which benefits from a gas fired central heating system and double glazing. The accommodation comprises enclosed port, hollway, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, landing, three bedrooms and family bathroom. Outside the property has driveway, side garage and rear garden. EFC rafing is grade C.

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## QUINTON



## **BARTLEY GREEN**



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\* Lounge Fitted Kirchen

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## **OLDBURY**



## End Terrace Property Lounge Kitchen-Diner Conservatory Three Bedrooms Balhroom Drive To Front Garden To The Rear FPC=D QUINTON 0121 4217766

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### BARTLEY GREEN



 Semi Detached Property
 Two Reception Rooms Kitchen
 Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
 Off Road Parking Garden To The Rea Off Road Parking Garden To The Rear
 EPC=D
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## Semi detached Property Lounge Breakfast Kitchen Cloaks W/c Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c Off Road Parking To The Front Garden To Rear EPC=D QUINTON 0121 4217766 £570 PCM WOODGATE

BODENHAM ROAD



## Lounge Kitchen-Diner Conservatory Three Bedrooms Bathroom Cloakroom W/c Paved Frontage Garden To The Rear

Paved Frontage Garden To The Rear
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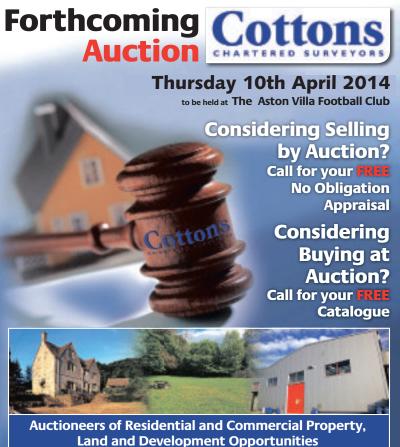
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Station. The property features; living room, fitted kitchen double bedroom, bathroom with shower. Benefits inclu



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# Big Cat gets a sleeker look

## By Andy Enright

Some cars dress up very nicely. The Jaguar XF executive model is one of them. Choose it in supercharged XFR or XFR-S performance guises and it's every bit the BMW M5 rival.

Where Jaguar has historically missed a trick is offering that same look with its more affordable diesel engines and more realistically priced trim levels as, say, BMW does with its M Sport trim on the 5 Series. But the Solihull brand has now caught up Hence the availability of the R-Sport trim we're looking at here on more dynam-ic-looking variants of the XF saloon and XF Sportbrake estate

Order your XF as an R-Sport and you get the standard recipe embellished with much of the look whichcharacterises the range-topping XFR super saloon model.

There's a choice of saloon or estate body styles and you can select between all three of the main diesel engines in the XF lineup. That means the familiar 2.2-litre powerplant in 163 or 200PS guises, plus the 240PS 3.0-litre diesel V6.

Yes, the R-Sport package merely represents a trim level: there are no mechanical changes over the standard XF. But that doesn't necessarily mean this car is a wolf

in sheep's clothing.

If you really want some strong pulling power in your XF R-Sport, there's the option of the 3.0-litre V6 diesel with 240PS. For most, however, there's more relevance in the performance of that 2.2-litre diesel. The entry-level 163PS XF will stop the watch at 9.8 seconds.

But the 200PS version, which is actually just as clean and economical, manages it in a far more sprightly 8.5 seconds, on the way to a 142mph maximum. With 450Nm of torque available from only 2,000rpm, there's no shortage of muscle with this en-



means you're always plugged into the meat of it.

Across the XF range, advances have been made in refinement, with active engine mounts (diesels) and sound deadening material featurng on the car as well as redesigned wing mirrors to reduce wind noise

Since its main facelift back in Spring 2011, the XF has had a much sleeker look, something that's also a feature of the sleek Sportbrake estate. That model has a 1675-litre total loading capacity and there are nearly 100 different ways to configure the interior.

Inside, it's still a special experience. The auto gear selector rises into the palm of your hand on start-up as the dashboard airvents acrobatically

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turn into position to greet you as you fire the ig-

If your only experience of XF motoring is of the original version, then in this current model, you'll appreciate the more supportive seats, the smarter satin-feel switches and the classier graphics on the 7-inch touch screen which looks after most of the main dashboard functions.

Relax inside an XF and from the stitched leather dashboard and door cappings to the aluminium and wood furnishings, it really does feel special. The craftsmanship, materials and attention to detail all impress.

Jaquar's designers have sought to find more interesting ways to say 'luxury', and largely, their efforts have worked. The lines are clean and modern flavour - from soft-grained leathers to real wood veneers with a bold, contemporary spin. Even the phosphor-blue interior lighting has its own mood.

diesel engine again. In 163PS form, it's available in the latest ECO2 spec which, amongst other things, uses an engine stop/start system to de-liver a 57.7mpg combined cycle fuel figure along with 129a/km of CO2.

If you've set your heart on a Jaguar XF, then you'll not be unaware of the driveway statement your purchase will make. In which case, you're to be very tempted by R-Sport spe at a £3,000 premium over the standard model.





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## **Drivetime**



## VW pumping up power

At the 1974 Geneva Motor Show, a sleek new Volkswagen hatchback coupe made its debut.

Forty years and over a million sales later, the Volkswagen Scirocco is preparing to return to Geneva, with a new range of advanced engines that offer up to 280 PS yet also promise fuel efficiency improvements of up to 19 per cent, without compromising the Scirocco's dynamic performance.

Externally, the Scirocco's stylish shape has been refined and modernised with new headlights and tail lights, as well as revised humper styling.

as well as revised bumper styling.

The revised front bumper features aerodynamic 'blades' in the outer

section, like those of the latest-generation Golf GTI, with integrated indicator lights, daytime running lights and fog lights. On models fitted with the optional bi-xenon headlights, the daytime running lights are LEDs within the main headlights. At the rear, all Sciroccos now have LED tail lights, while the bumper has been reshaped to appear lower and more purposeful. As on a Golf, the Volkswagen logo badge now has an additional purpose; functions are the stilled to the part of the property of the prope

tioning as the tailgate release handle.

As before, the range-topping Scirocco R has a distinct look, with bespoke bumpers and alloy wheels. The Scirocco R now comes as standard with 18-inch 'Cadiz' alloy wheels, as on the Golf R. The rest of the range

also receives new alloy wheel designs, including the option of the 'Talladega' alloy previously reserved for the 'R'.

Under the bonnet (which as before features the Volkswagen roundel) are six new tubocharged direct-injection petrol and diesel engines, all of which meet EU6 emissions standards and return between 68.9 and 34.9 mpg.

Inside, the dashboard has been updated, with new-look dials and an auxiliary instrument cluster above the centre console, consisting of chronometer, charge pressure and oil temperature gauges – a tribute to the 1974 model

Orders open in the UK in May, with first deliveries in September. More details available closer to launch.

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Official Chevrolet fuel consumption figures for Cruze 1.6 LS: Urban 31.4, Extra-Urban 51.4, Combined 41.5, CO2 159 g/km; Spark 1.0 LS (mpg): Urban 42.8, Extra-Urban 67.3, Combined 55.4, CO2 119 g/km; Trax range: Urban: 34.4-52.3, Extra Urban: 51.3-70.6, Combined -43.4-62.7. CO2 Emissions 120-153g/km. Official EU-Regulated Test Data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style.

## rivetime





## Raising bar with a more streamlined Sport model

Land Rover again raises the premium SUV bar with its latest offering - the V8 diesel-pow-

ered Range Rover Sport, writes lain Dooley.

It can't have escaped you that Land Rover is doing rather well at the moment. Although only one half of the Jaguar-Land Rover equation, the 4x4 side of the business is selling the lion's share of the product.

selling the lion's snare of the product.

The compact entry-level Evoque SUV burst onto the scene with all the fanfare and adoration of a major celebrity, and the trickle down effect – or should that be trickle up – had been felt across the firm's recently refreshed range.

One obvious recipient of the Evoque's magic has been the second generation Range Rover Sport. Visual similarities to the rock star of the range are no coincidence, while Land Rover's continued focus on reducing weight and boosting the level of technology in its cars continues with this more streamlined Sport.

Lighter, more economical and offering a more engaging on-road driving experience than the car it replaces, alongside Land Rover's long established off-road credentials, this new generation Sport also boasts more cabin space plus the option of a family-friendly third row of seats. Just like the latest Range Rover, the Sport adopts its mak-

er's next-gen Terrain Response system, which includes an auto mode clever enough to sense changes in terrain and change the engine, gearbox and suspension settings accordingly.

Although endowed with a perfectly good range of engines

six-cylinder diesel and eight-pot supercharged petrol units
 the final piece of the performance jigsaw has now slotted

### Hot

If petrol isn't your thing but you still want to feel a shove in your back, there's now a hot diesel option in the form of a 4.4-litre V8, 334 horsepower lump. On paper, consumption and emission rise slightly as you'd expect, but the trade-off is a welcome increased turn of speed and more mid-range

With a predictable embarrassment of riches in both pow er and torque departments, this hot V8 diesel Sport is the consummate all-rounder. Ample low down torque is complemented by superb throttle sensitivity, making it ideal not just for inching over treacherous obstacles but also breezing past slower traffic on wide, sweeping A-roads.

Despite the potential for higher corner entry speeds when in diesel V8 guise, bodyroll is expertly kept in check and the Sport's ride is rarely compromised by its large but stylish alloy wheels. For a car destined to spend much of its time on the road, this should be music to any prospective own-

One thing that hasn't changed with the inclusion of a more powerful diesel motor, is the Sport's living quarters. The cabin remains a plush and inviting environment for occupants fore and aft, while the fascia's clean, simple lines put the cluttered driving environments of many rivals to shame.

In V8 diesel guise, the Range Rover Sport is as close to a no-compromise luxury SUV for the real world as you can get. It might look stately but its footprint remains a manageable one, while its expertly honed driving dynamics allow you to fully exploit the diesel V8's welcome extra power with supreme confidence.

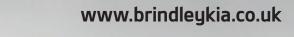
## **TESTED**

Model: Range Rover Sport SDV8 Autobiography Dynamic, from £81,550 on the road. Engine: 4.4-litre V8 diesel unit developing

334bhp Transmission: 8-speed automatic transmission as standard, driving all four wheels.

Performance: Maximum speed 140mph, 0-62mph 6.9 seconds.

Economy: 32.5mpg. CO2 Rating: 229g/km.







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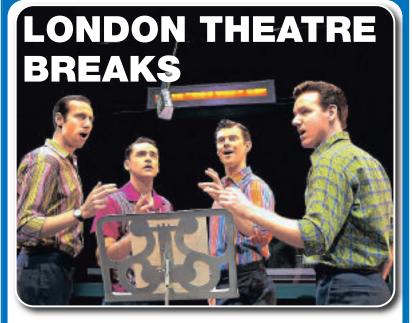


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SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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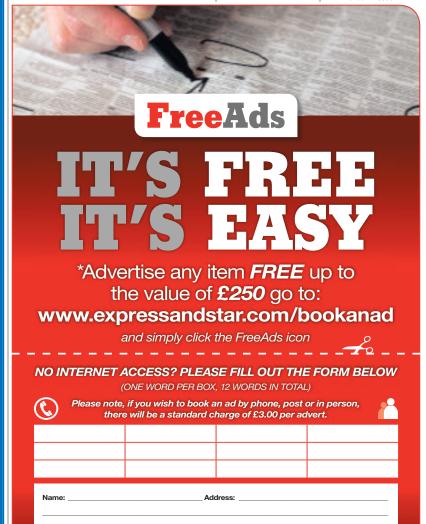
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## SPORT

## **Athletes** take part in March Hair raiser

THIS week a couple of runners took part in the March Hair Raiser.
Organised by Wolves and

Bilston Athletics Club, it is

Near Albrighton.
Despite a cold start, Steven Burch finished in 48.05 and Colin Downey finished in 52.08

and Colin Downey finished in 52.08.

Last weekend was the English Nationals Cross Country races – held at Wollaton Park, Nottingham. First across the line was Chris Blake with a time of 47.19, next was Duncan Cornigh 48.58 and Pete Walters 50.27. Stourbridge was placed 96th in the Senior Men team 6 count.

Joan Clarke and Ruby Ooi took place in the ladies race and their times were 40.48 and 1.09.00 respectively.

Also last weekend was the Action Heart 5 race in Dudley. Stourbridge had 15 runners in the race, first to finish was Chris Blake 31.23 then Robert Colman 32:36 then David Rose 34.47.

The annual Stourbridge Stumble will be held on the evening of August 9th. For details see the clubs website www.srclub.co.uk

www.srclub.co.uk

## Benteke's best 'is still to come'

VILLA boss Paul Lambert

VILLA boss Paul Lambert today insisted Christian Benteke's best is yet to come as the striker targeted a late-season goal spree after shooting down Norwich. The Belgium international netted twice in three first-half minutes as his side went 11th in the Premier League with a vital 4-1 victory over Norwich at Villa Park yesterday.

beague with a vica 4-1 villa Park yesterday.

But Lambert says the 23-year-old is still improving after signalling a return to his best with a fine allround display against the Canaries after a dip in form.

"As soon as he scored the first goal, his game was great," said Lambert. "He was controlling the ball when there were people trying to get to it and when he's at it he's an absolute handful, world class.

"I knew it was going to be hard (this season) be-

be hard (this season) be-cause the lad has only been in Britain for a year-and-a-half. Benteke said: "I hope now I'm going to keep my level up."

## Late equaliser jitters for Yeltz side

HALESOWEN consolidated second spot in the league table after Ben Haseley's crucial 25th goal of the season edged out third-placed Leek in front of 562 fans which was the best attendance of the

Season.

Leek's Ryan Dicker hacked clear after Haseley latched on to a throw-in from Tom Tomks at the start of the first of three vital top-of-the-table clashes which are in the pipeline for the Yeltz over the compared are coming days.

And the team need to keep their winning ways.

The visitor's only real danger of the first half came when Dicker met Anthony Danylyk's 19th minute corner with a glancing header but home goalkeeper Matt Sargeant stayed alert to make the save at his post and keep the ball out of the net.

There was no score for the first half hour of the match as each side tried to break the deadlock and get a foothold on the game.

Haseley pounced in the six-yard box to grab Halesowen's deserved 35th minute winner after efforts from Aaron Forde and Tonks were cleared off the goal line with Leek

## Football

temporarily reduced to  $10~\mathrm{men},$  a fact the Yeltz took full advantage

off .
With Halesowen in the ascendancy, Forde went close again when he fired just high after robbing Leek captain Sam Hall three minutes later.

At the start of the second half Leek goalkeeper Chapman beat away a 25-yard effort from Iyseden Christic before gathering Joe Hull's header under his bar.

Chapman then made an excel-

69th minute volley which looked like it was heading into the net. But Leek caused a few home jitters as they pressed for a late equaliser.

equaiser.

Halesowen stopper Sargeant
beat the ball away after Hall
found space and the keeper kept
the points safe in the third minute
of injury time with a fine low save
after substitute Tim Grick burst
through the heart of Halesowen's
defence.

With the only goal of the game The Yeltz made their spot in the table a little more secure and hold

onto the second spot in the table for a little longer.

Halesowen Town: Sargeant; Green, Charlton (Kelly 86), Forde, Hull (c), Tilt, Griffiths (Gueyes 89), Tonks, Christie (Penney 90), Haseley, Turner.

Unused Subs: MacKenzie, Pearson (GK).

Pearson (GK).

Leek Town: Chapman; Smith,
Bell, Dicker (Donnelly 36), Espley,
Hall (c), Danylyk (Maguire 67),
Shelley, Kinsley, Johnson (Grick
62), Johnston.

Unused Subs: None.

Referee: Stuart Eagland

# Suffering DK side is hit with a shutout

**Dudley Kingswinford 0 Birmingham Solihull 36** 

ONCE again the faultless and undying spirit of this Dudley team shone like a beacon on the bright sunny afternoon at Heathbrook.

Alas, it was all to no avail as DK's season of woe continued at the hands of a very workmanlike Bees' side who ran out comfortable winners in the end.

Dudley were immediately on the back foot as they lost flanker Matt Squires to the sin bin after only two minutes for allegedly killing the ball at a ruck.

Rugby
got into the home 22, they pressed the advantage and

Bees took advantage of the extra man and launched

hees took advantage or the extra man and launched an attack in midfield with fly half Adam Canning making the decisive break and raced almost un-opposed to the posts to score the opening try which he converted to take Bees into a 7-0 lead after 10 minutes.

With Squires still off the pitch another strong attack by the visitors saw left wing Fensome go over for their second try which Canning just failed to convert. Back up to full strength, DK then launched attacks themselves but were unable to breach a solid defence and their only reward was a solitary penalty which fly half Kieran Pinches narrowly missed.

Further good work by the forwards saw them press the visitors line but despite their best efforts they just lacked that final cutting edge to get them over the try line.

However, the key difference between the two teams was that when the visitors

got into the home 22, they pressed the advantage and were rewarded with a further two tries, one an interception by Adam Canning bagging his second of the match by running almost the full length of the pitch, and the other by scrum half Rod Petty just on half time, both converted by Canning. With the wind advantage in the favour of the visitors the signs for the home side were ominous, but those odds do not phase DK and they opened the half strongly, and continued to press but still couldn't find a way through.

press but still couldn't find away through.

However, the now customary second half heroics were not rewarded by points, and despite Bees losing two players to the sin bin, DK could not find a way over the line to get the scores they so richly deserved.

served. No.8 Jon Tideswell forced his way over, but was adjudged not to have grounded the ball.

The visitors scored two

further tries through Chris Goddard.



DK's Harry Bayliss fends off a tackle during the match where his side suffered yet another shutout

## Runners head far and wide for races

ATHLETES from DK Running club travelled far and wide to pull on the blue hooped vest.

wine to pull on the blue hooped vest.

Those travelling the shortest distance went to Albrighton for the March Hair Raiser Race, a six and a half-ish off road race advertised as "tough and testing". Ben Foster was first DK runner home coming fourth in 37.47, Edian Preston was 26th in 44.40, Helen Tromans, 34th overall but claiming the third lady prize, finished in 46.25, John Andrews was 52nd in 49.43 and Jacqui Elton-Whittaker was 80th in 53.59.

Roger Beddard put the

ton-whittaker was soun in Roger Beddard put the final touches to his preparation for the Barcelona Marathon in a week's time with a race over the half distance in Bath. In a high quality field Beddard hit 1.37.39 for 1185th place. Travelling the furthest was a trio to Berkshire for the Mizuno sponsored Reading Half Marathon. In a race with near 15,000 finishers Dave Norman was the first DK runner to cross the line DK runner to cross the line in 1.28.45 for 753rd place, Mark Homer finished in 1.34.11 for 1,359th and Phil Smith was 1,679th in

## Pedmore remain unbeaten

Pedmore (126-4) beat Enville 'A' (99-3) by 27 runs THE two remaining un-beaten teams in the Kinver

THE two remaining unbeaten teams in the Kinver section of the Worcestershire league met at Edge-cliff School Sports Hall and Pedmore came out the clear winners.

Openers Dave Skelding (31 no) and Sam Peruzza (33) threw down the gauntlet from the off with good placement and running between the wickets. Skelding retired first bringing John Hurdman (25 no) to continue the good work. Lower order batsmen were content to sacrifice their wickets to keep up the pressure which also brought back the openers. Some accurate bowling from John Hurdman and Chris Bourne made it difficult for Enville.

Lye (88-4) lost to Oldswinford (70-0) with 2 overs left Imran Riaz (26 no) was the only Lye batsman to figure.

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Late leveller
Injury time goal saves Heath Hayes side

Haseley's hit
Single goal is enough to give Yeltz victory

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## Lots of effort but no reward

Stourport 5 OHHC 1sts 1 THE Old Halesonian squad put a 100 per cent effort into the game, but came out losers where the score line didn't reflect how close the

didn't reflect how close the game really was.

Both teams started strongly, and it was clear from the start it was going to be an end-to-end game.

It was Stourport who opened the scoring, but Hales battled back hard and made the scores level before the half-time break, when striker Harry Hughes found the net after a winding run from Josh Randhawa.

## **Protests**

Protests
In the second period,
Stourport gained the upper
hand following several penalty corners, and extended
their lead to 3-1. Tempers
flared following the fourth
goal, as Stourport ensured
the three points.
Paul Harrold was sinbinned after his protests
that there was a foul in the
build-up, and Hales spent 10
minutes with a player down.
At this stage there was no
chance of a comeback, but
Hales continued to battle.
Stourport fired in their
fifth goal of the game to
make it 5-1, but Hales' effort cannot be faulted.
Other Results for OHHC:
Ladies 1sts 3 Kings Heath
2; OHHC 2nds 1 Stratford 4;
Ladies 2nds 0 Bromsgrove
9; OHHC 4ths 1 Stourport
1; Hampton 6 OHHC Sths 3.

## **Drop fear is** dismissed

BOSS Paul Lambert today dismissed fears of relega-tion at Villa. He insisted he was never worried about the drop after Villa took a huge

drop after Villa took a huge leap to safety. Sunday's 4-1 win over Norwich put them seven points clear of the Premier League's bottom three.
"I never really look down," said Lambert. "People were saying last week that West Ham were well and truly out of it and all of a sudden we are level with them.

"We will try to get to the next team above us and I never look at it negatively, I always think we can win

games."
"We are a young team and we are miles from where we want to be.
"But we are slowly but surely getting there and if they keep growing and being confident their careers will keep miles." keep going.

## **Clean sweep for Old Hales rugby squads**

BEDFORD Athletic 27 OH 1sts 31
The Old Halesonians club enjoyed a clean sweep as all of their teams were victorious.
Hales travelled to bottom of the table Bedford Athletic to what should have been compositeable usive. a comfortable win.

For the first 20 minutes Bedford were to-

For the first 20 minutes Bedford were to-tally dominant, two tries in succession, both converted and a penalty from pressure, again in the backs, gave them a 17-0 lead. The visitors seemed to leave their game on the bus but fought back for an uncon-verted try by wing Simon Sabel. Bedford again took the initiative with back play and scored another converted try

Rugby

to lead which visibly shocked the visitors into action.

The Hales pack took control and after 12 phases of driving play by Breese, Jordan, Taylor, Evans, Fitzgerald and Dempsey gained valuable ground.

A penalty to Hales after continued pressure saw the visitors elect a scrum, the pack drove forward for scrum half Nathan Jones to pin over for a try converted by Powell

to nip over for a try, converted by Powell. In the second half Luke Smith went over

for a try, converted by Powell 24 -19.

On 50 minutes loose head prop Tom Dempsey drove over for a try, converted again by Powell.

Bedford were not out of it yet, more elusive back play gave them ground close to the Hales try line, a well-taken drop goal put Bedford ahead 27 - 26. The next 10 minutes is the second of the property of o

put Bedford ahead 27 - 26. The next 10 minutes were frantic and crucial for Hales, they battled hard in spite of two yellow cards leaving 13 players on the field.

Forwards again did their stuff forcing another penalty close to the the visitors line wide out. Another scrum was elected, the drive was there, scrum half Jones again on the ball for a deciding close quarter try. The

conversion failed but Hales retained a 27-31. Hales meet staunch rivals Bournville at home this week for another crucial game, kick off 3pm. Also Old Halesonians host their annual players reunion lunch at the club, commencing at 12.30pm.

Worcester 2nds 30

Worcester 2nds 30
Old Halesonians 2nds 36
Old Hales 3rds 41 Worcester 3rds 12
Tries: Gaz Price, Ben Roberts, Alex Eccles, Steve Deakin (3) and Lee Davis
Old Hales 4ths 36 Worcester 4ths 26
Lichfield 7 Old Hales Colts 17.
Colts had a convincing win away to Lichfield

## Banbury crash to fifth loss

### Banbury United 0 Stourbridge 4

Two goals apiece for Ben Billingham and Luke Ben-bow earned Stourbridge victory as Banbury crashed to a fifth successive league defeat.

defeat.

Gary Hackett's men took the lead after 33 minutes with a poor clearance from Tom Ryan going straight to Sean Geddes who drilled in a low 20-yard shot that hit the base of Kwame Fordah's right-hand post before rolling along the goal-line for Billingham to tuck away.

The visitors doubled their

The visitors doubled their lead five minutes later after Kyle Haynes played the ball forward through the right channel area and Billingham squared the ball across low for Benbow to net.

low for Benbow to net.

Stourbridge stretched
their lead further on 58
minutes as the referee
played a good advantage
enabling Kayelden Brown
to drive on before sending
the ball crossfield to Drew
Canavan and from his right
wing cross Benbow was able
to head home.

Billingham added a fourth

Billingham added a fourth goal twelve minutes from time after a clearance by keeper Fordah was fed to him from Geddes.

## **Murphy retires** after knee iniurv

BIRMINGHAM defender David Murphy is retiring due to a knee injury. The left-back had surgery in November 2012 and re-turned in September 2015 and re-for six games - scoring thice turned in September 2017 for six games – scoring twice against Millwall – before a setback in October. Mur-phy, 30, said: "I wasn't able to sustain the heights of my previous form. I have no op-tion but to retire."

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## IIGHT W IN P IZ AT THE TOP

Halesowen 1 Coalville 0

### HALESOWEN sealed a narrow win in the all-important game against titlechasers Coalville.

The Yeltz were the more threatening at the start. Neil Mackenzie's deflected shot was tipped over the bar by Coalville keeper Sean Bowles. And he was to the rescue again saving

Bowles. And he was to to Curtis Tilt's header
Halesowen kept pressing and Neil Mackenzie looked determined to get on the scoresheet, as lyseden Christie's headed the ball towards Mackenzie whose forceful attempt was cleared off the line by Bowles' feet. Coalville had their chances too, as Callum Woodward's effort 12 yards out just flew inches over the bar.

## Opportunity

Iyseden Christie was then gifted a chance in the Coalville penalty area, but the opportunity went to waste, as his shot flew high over the bar

over the bar.

But Christie made up for that mistake as a long throw from Tom Tonks flew right onto Christie's head and he directed the ball past Sean Bowles and into the bottom left corner of the net to give that Yeltz the lead and, at that time, the top spot in the division.

Calville suddenly

the division.

Coalville suddenly sparked into life after 35 minutes as Anthony Carney had an opportunity from 15 yards out but his shot swerved left off the goal.

Ben Saunders nearly grabbed a goal for the Ravens in the closing stages of

vens in the closing stages of the second half, as his goal-bound was parried away by

## Football

Matt Sargeant out of play.
Coalville were more threatening in the second half and their search for the equaliser started with Jordan Hempenstall gathering the ball inside the penalty area and hitting a shot that flew just over the bar.
Hempenstall had another opportunity minutes later

Hempenstall had another opportunity minutes later as his header from six yards out bounced off the crossbar. Coalville started to get chance after chance, as Danny Jenno's free kick was well saved by Sargeant, and Ben Saunders found space six yards from goal, but Sargeant denied them. Halesowen then started up again, after a quiet sec-

up again, after a quiet sec-ond half, as Neil Mackenzie found space on the edge of the 18-yard box, but he blasted the ball over the bar.

blasted the ball over the bar. Coalville's Ben Saunders missed the opportunity of the game, as he had space inside the six yard box, but the pressure got to him as he blasted the ball over the bar. Coalville had one last chance in the dying mo-ments as Cam Stewart's free kick rebounded off the bar and out of play.

bar and out of play. Halesowen held on for a vital three points take the top spot three points clear of the Ravens.

## Scoreless DK squad suffers another defeat



Nick Murphy tries to block a kick for Dudley Kingswinford against Birmingham, Report - Page 35

